EAST BAY EXPRESS

# HOW AN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW IS HARMING THE ENVIRONMENT

California's signature environmental law needs to be reformed because NIMBYs are using it to block smart growth.

By Robert Gammon

**Richmond** [illegible] **en His Junk** Th [illegible] y C [illegible] ky Bo [illegible] e [illegible] a [illegible] reviously u [illegible] sclosed acc [illegible]

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**Antwon on the Fringe** The San Jose rapper's outsider [illegible] ity pg. 37

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**On the Cover** *Photo illustration by Brian Kelly.*

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# NEWS & OPINION

LETTERS

### Why Witnesses Don't Talk

People often blame other residents for failing to come forward and testify against crimes they have witnessed. But when most people know the prosecution system and OPD cannot protect witnesses, don't blame residents for clamming up. Appreciate the people who do risk their lives by testifying.

*Leo Raphael, Oakland*

### A Limping Dog and Pony Show

I appreciate your close reading of the interpretations of the tracks, which I think makes for a fine, fair review of the recordings alone. There are some seriously overlooked or flatly ignored elements, though, that made this the single weirdest clusterfuck live show I've ever been to. Your rundown doesn't translate anything about the audience experience of that near-$50 Rickshaw show: totally sold out and packed to the walls with people who, in the end, mostly took away that it was at least nice to be in a room full of people who also liked Radiohead. There were odd, confusing, overwrought instructions about how the show would run (only sometimes realized — *watch the stage! Now watch the screen! Wait, those musicians clearly hate being interviewed* — why are we doing this again?) coupled with weird self-congratulatory moments from everyone who had the mic about how visionary this whole thing was, as if we should all be more grateful than the exorbitant price we paid to get in. Yes, the set changes were "complicated" — sometimes taking as long as ten minutes between performances for an album of tracks that were not supposed to be broken up. By the second intermission, and increasingly through the show, people all around me were turning to each other to quizzically, shyly figure out from each other how they were supposed to feel about this. Nobody expected Radiohead proper, because we knew better, but my God. By the middle third of the album, people all over the venue were being less shy about recognizing together what a total shitshow this was.

The musicians mostly hovered outside, and there was great shrugging and shaking of heads that went beyond the normal post-show "Did we-do-all right?"s. Judging by the way the hands were talking and the breakneck acolyte praise on the UnderCover Facebook page, the organizers of this thing seem to be sort of feared and respected in the SF scene, but everybody was so busy patting each other on the backs (even as the stage management was at a complete breakdown standstill) that I'm not convinced they were at all aware of the audience's despair at what was happening, or of the conversations happening in literally every corner of the club about this whole thing being the worst limping dog and pony show of egos that the city has seen in recent memory.

*Alaska Quilici, Berkeley*

### The Solution Starts Here

Yes, the easy availability of firearms is a nationwide problem that can be reduced with a better national system for background checks and better enforcement locally regarding gun crimes everywhere. Yes, the gun lobby has worked successfully to prevent such improvements.

On the other hand, there are plenty of cities around the country comparable to Oakland that have much lower rates of violent crime, gun related or not. Oakland's violence is the product of Oakland's cultures of violence. Pointing to the gun lobby doesn't get us anywhere in terms of reducing violence here.

We need to keep our eyes on our own backyard. And we need to think very hard about how to deal with our cultures of violence in a way that Oakland's citizens will accept and support. It would be good to explore such ideas and write about them.

*Mike Ferro, Oakland*

### Frivolous Regulation and First Fridays

So let me get this straight. We close down a dozen blocks, open up the hottest art venues in town, put up too many stages to count (rocking everything from funk to pop-rock), pack the streets with food trucks, have halls, vendors all over the place ... on a Friday night ... and city officials want to "de-emphasize the party aspect of First Fridays." Okay! I will never understand people's hard-ons for frivolous regulation. Here's a bold idea: Arrest those who are publicly intoxicated and have some modicum of responsibility for yourself and your friends. Or better yet, more bounce houses and lollipops.

*Whitney Lawrence, Oakland*

### What About the Other Shootings?

What is the problem that alcohol causes? Does anybody know if the kid that shot the gun last month was drunk? Why is it that everybody freaks out and needs to shut everything down over some shootings like this one, or the one near Occupy last year, but the other shootings that happen across the city every day are ignored? Maybe the politicians take advantage of some shootings to push the changes that they want anyway.

*Miguel Vargas, Oakland*

### Art Isn't Utopian

Understandably, one would like to be fed another utopian hope (to stir one's emotions) when confronting failed past utopian endeavors. But wouldn't that be missing the point? I agree that this work might invoke sadness, despondence, and pity. In my opinion, that allows one to begin the process of looking at our environmental/cultural/economic status from a responsible point of view, instead of swapping new utopian visions for the old ones.

It is also understandable, in a capitalist system, to expect art to distract, entertain, offer fantasy or escapism — but it takes courage and conviction from an artist to present the reality she sees, even if this causes discomfort. Congrats to Ms. Rovott.

*Dei Tagnfisio, Los Angeles*

### What the Muck?

The *Express* fills a great void. It is one of the very few sources for regular, updated public events in the East Bay. Other papers like *The Montclarion* are too narrow, too focused on making mountains out of molehills. *The Montclarion* is delivered for free to your doorstep if your street is lucky enough to be selected as belonging to the "hills."

For *The Montclarion*, Oakland is basically Piedmont. There are no shootings, very little corruption, and very few scandals. Pets feature heavily in its content.

The *Express*, on the other hand, has a muckraking and DIY slant. It loves scandal, corruption, and recently, guns, everywhere. Reading the *Express* is like watching a Western: Everybody is getting shot and talking about shooting.

I am a supporter of muckraking, as long as there is an end to the muck. As long as muck does not make more muck.

The *Express* must draw a line between acknowledging muck and ignoring good things. Upton Sinclair wasn't just a politician. He was an artist, too.

I'd like to see more cover features about local artists, musicians, and venues. They are the filter that we pass through society for issues. If there are problems in the world, locally or globally, artists both reflect and reflect on those problems, like Marvin Gaye's record playing in Richard Pryor's apartment in Berkeley.

*Shoshone Johnson, Oakland*

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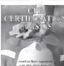

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SEVEN DAYS

# CAN OPD EVER BE FIXED?

A new overseer takes command of the deeply dysfunctional police department as news breaks that it targeted two more innocent men

By Robert Gammon

For anyone who has closely followed local news during the past decade, it's no secret that Oakland's police department is one of the worst in the nation. Late last year, the deeply dysfunctional agency narrowly avoided becoming the first in the country to be taken over by the federal government for its repeated failure to safeguard the civil rights of city residents. Earlier this week, a court-appointed overseer took effective control of OPD in an effort to finally reform it. And while the chair of this new so-called compliance director, former Baltimore Police Commissioner **Thomas Frazier**, appears to have been smart, recent news that OPD had targeted at least three innocent men — helping imprison two of them for long stretches — raises further doubts as to whether the department's many problems can ever be fixed.

Of the two most recent revelations, which came to light earlier this week, one showed that Oakland police put a San Leandro accountant on its Most Wanted list for much of last year even though the department had obtained no warrant for his arrest and he appears to have been totally innocent. The accountant, **Chau Van**, noted in his lawsuit against OPD that he had showed up at police headquarters in February 2012 after learning from a friend that KTVU TV had broadcast a report stating that police considered him to be a dangerous criminal. OPD then held him for three days without charges and released him.

Police Chief **Howard Jordan**'s media relations office then issued a press release entitled "Most Wanted Turns Himself In." The release quoted Jordan as saying, "A week ago I stood with community members and asked the community to stand with me to fight crime and today we have one less criminal on our streets. Today a victim is one step closer to justice." The press release went on to describe "Chau" (it transposed his first and last names) as "the person responsible" for a December 9, 2011 assault that left a victim with serious head injuries.

And even though the department had released Van and had no arrest warrant for him, it kept him on its Most Wanted list until one of his attorneys, **John Burris**, sent the department a letter in August of 2012. The department has yet to apologize.

In the other case, the Northern California Innocence Project at Santa Clara University law school proved that 38-year-old **Johnny Williams** of Oakland had been wrongly convicted and imprisoned for fourteen years for the sexual assault of a young girl in the 1990s, the *Oakland Tribune* and *San Francisco Chronicle* reported. Williams was forced to serve his full term in prison and wasn't officially exonerated by the courts until last week — two months after he had been paroled. The Innocence Project proved through DNA testing that Williams was innocent.

Williams was the second innocent man from Oakland exonerated in as many months thanks to the work of the Innocence Project. In February, **Ronald Ross**, 51, was released from custody after spending seven years behind bars for a crime he didn't commit. Like Williams, Ross was convicted as the result of shoddy investigative work by OPD.

In fact, in all three of the above cases, OPD appears to have wrongly targeted innocent men as the result of the department's poor investigative practices and its overreliance on witness identifications. In each of the cases, the only evidence that OPD reportedly had was witness IDs. As the *Express* reported last fall, that's not uncommon in Oakland. Interviews and public records show that OPD routinely fails to collect and analyze forensic evidence at crime scenes and instead depends almost exclusively on witness testimony to make arrests and obtain convictions — even though numerous studies have shown over the years that witness IDs are among the least reliable forms of evidence (see "Getting Away with Murder," 11/14/12). The lack of proper investigative techniques is also why OPD has one of the worst records in the nation for solving violent crimes. In 2011, it solved just 29 percent of the homicides in the city. Statewide, the average solve-rate for homicides is 64 percent.

OPD's inability to solve crimes, in turn, contributes to the city's high crime rate because criminals have little fear of getting caught and are free to commit even more crimes. Part of the problem is that OPD is understaffed. However, the cash-strapped city doesn't have the funds to quickly beef up the size of the force. Either way, OPD has failed over the years to address its investigative failures and instead has concentrated on patrolling streets in the hopes that people won't commit crimes if they see a police officer pulling someone over for a minor traffic violation. Predictably, crime has remained at very high levels.

At the same time, OPD has repeatedly failed to live up to the court-mandated reforms from the infamous Riders scandal. Fortunately, federal Judge **Thelton Henderson** appears to have made a wise choice in selecting Frazier to oversee OPD. According to the *Tribune*, Frazier is a strong advocate of community policing strategies and has a reputation for eschewing "zero tolerance" policing and downplaying the importance of enforcing minor crimes, including drug offenses. He's been described as "a social worker with a gun."

Frazier also is well aware of OPD's investigative shortcomings. In a hard-hitting report released last June, Frazier noted that OPD doesn't investigate officer misconduct either (see "Damning Report of OPD," 6/20/12). As compliance director, Frazier will make the department's compliance to the federal consent decree his primary responsibility. If successful, it will represent a major accomplishment for the city's police force. But unless Frazier can also dramatically improve the department's investigative abilities, Oakland likely will continue to be plagued by violent crime — and police will wrongfully target more innocent people. ●

Seven Days is culled from our blog of the same name.

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LEGALIZATION NATION

# SEQUESTER THE CRACKDOWN AND ENJOY THE BLÜM

Oakland's newest medical cannabis dispensary has some truly fabulous ganja

By David Downs

Thanks to the recent federal budget cuts, known as the "sequester," the Drug Enforcement Administration must slash its spending by 8.2 percent. And DC bureaucrats who are looking to trim the DEA's $2.02 billion annual budget by $166 million should start by examining the funds used to finance the harassment of lawful medical marijuana dispensaries in states where the drug is legal.

Medical cannabis towns like Oakland could really use such a break, and so could the city's new dispensary: Blüm. Weed patients passing through or living in the Uptown area should be pleased with this new four-month-old club. It offers a model experience similar in vibe to San Francisco's The Green Door. Behind beefy security awaits some of Oakland's finest indoor cannabis — although you're not going to hear Blüm owner and operator Salwa Ibrahim talking about it.

The reason is that the seventeen-month-long federal crackdown on California medical marijuana continues to reverberate throughout the industry. All across the state, prosecutors have dislodged dispensaries from their homes and spooked landlords at the same time. Oakland's Harborside Health Center is still in court facing off against US Attorney Melinda Haag and the IRS. And a group of new Oakland dispensaries including Abatin Wellness, Magnolia Wellness, and The Tidewater Group have yet to open because of difficulty in finding landlords who will lease to them.

In fact, it's unclear how Ibrahim managed to score a space for Blüm at 578 West Grand Avenue; she didn't want to speak openly about her business with Legalization Nation. Instead, the courageous entrepreneur allowed her sterling facility and superb crops do the talking.

First off, Blüm has a good location at the busy intersection West Grand and Northgate avenues. The area, however, also sees its share of Oakland street crime, including auto burglaries and vehicle thefts, so the club has lots of security, with guards stationed in the back parking lot and at the front of the club. Inside the entry to the one-story brick building, bulletproof glass shields the receptionist. Behind the locked main doors, a cashier sits ensconced in another layer of thick glass. Cameras record everything.

But Ibrahim also has attempted to soften Blüm's look as best she can. Decorative plastic stripe brighten the fences in the back parking lot. Freshly planted flowers line the walkway. New paint covers most of the graffiti, and the signage is tastefully designed. Inside, the main room is huge, warm, and bathed in muted sunlight. The hardwood floors gleam and the tasteful hipster art of Oliver Black adorns the walls. Blüm's well-designed menu glows on enormous banks of flatscreen TVs.

And for those of you who despise the long lines at some of the East Bay's other clubs, Blüm is the spot: bomb cuts and zero delays.

We got a special tour of Blüm's flower selection, and by the looks of it, Oakland is growing some truly fabulous ganja. Growers show up at Blüm all the time, so the club has its pick of the local crop, as evidenced by the selection of both top-shelf and mid-priced flowers.

Blüm offers near-perfect cuts of Cadillac Purple and Presidential Purple. Both have a huge grape smell, sport high scores for potency, and are completely dark and dank. Blüm's mid-grade Girl Scout Cookies, meanwhile, rivals top-shelf buds elsewhere, and the club's Platinum Cookies are simply phenomenal. Popularized by the rapper Berner, Platinum Cookies mixes OG Kush, Cherry Pie, and Durban Poison. The big, dark, dense, multi-colored nugs have a complex smell best summed up as similar to that of a mint baked good. The weed's effects are neither too euphoric nor too sleepy, and patients smoke it to relieve stress, anxiety, and pain.

Blüm's OG Kush selection is also a best in class. There's the Premium OG and the Reserve OG, along with the Lil Bud OG, which was actually just the smaller buds of Reserve OG for $25 per eighth. That's a bargain and we were sold, though we promised to return for the mid-grade Super Lemon Haze, Chem 91, and Pineapple. The club also offers a fair amount of concentrates like cold water hash and hash oil, plus plenty of edibles.

The inventory is lab-tested, with potency scores for the molecules THC, CBD, and CBN — which is awesome. The club also sells all its buds pre-packaged in plastic pouches, which is faster than weighing out sacks on demand but sacrifices some olfactory information. It's always helpful to sniff big jars of pot for unwelcome attributes like a fishy fertilizer smell.

Blüm also takes Visa and MasterCard despite ongoing efforts by the US Department of Treasury to deny banking service to dispensaries. In fact, that's another great sequester target, now that we think about it.

## Seeds & Stems

Next up: Magnolia Wellness is slated to open this spring in West Oakland, the dispensary stated in a February 28 announcement online. The former Sacramento-area club won big at the *High Times* Medical Cannabis Cup in Los Angeles this February. "Our 3rd place award-winning sativa, the Red Congolese, our 2nd place winning edible, Sweet Stone Gummy Bears, and our CBD award-winning Harlequin Shatter from Fortyone Wax will be available at our new location along with countless other unique flowers, concentrates and edibles. Look for us in West Oakland this spring; we can't wait to see you there!" ●

This column is culled from our blog of the same name.

David.Downs@gmail.com

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The city attorney says Vice Mayor Booze's junkyard is a threat to public health.

NEWS

# RICHMOND COUNCILMAN GETS CALLED ON HIS JUNK

The city attorney is targeting blighted property controlled by Corky Booze, as previously undisclosed accusations that he battered women come to light.

By John Geluardi

The Richmond City Attorney's Office is cracking down on a blighted property that has been maintained for decades by embattled Vice Mayor Corky Booze. The property, which is overrun with inoperable cars, trucks, motorcycles, boats, and forklifts, is the latest controversy to envelop Booze, whose two years on the Richmond City Council have been characterized by petty arguments, grandstanding, and race-baiting. In addition, the crackdown coincides with revelations that Booze had been accused previously of battering a female Richmond police officer and a woman who volunteered for him.

In a five-page letter obtained by the *Express*, city prosecutor Trisha Aljoe described the property that Booze uses at 22 Carlson Boulevard as a public nuisance and a fire hazard. The 69-year-old Booze (pronounced "boo-zay") has claimed for decades that he operates an automotive repair business on the property, according to public records. According to the letter, the property also includes piles of discarded appliances, furniture, storage tanks, and metal cylinders — all of which are maintained illegally. The junkyard has become a threat to public health by "maintaining, permitting, or allowing property as a declared public nuisance per se due to blighted and unsightly conditions detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of the public," Aljoe wrote in the March 6 letter.

The abatement order, however, is addressed to a mysterious woman named Laura Baker, a resident of Vallejo who is the owner of record on the property. She also appears as the legal owner of two other properties that Booze at one time owned and continues to control, public records show. The abatement letter also names Booze as the operator of the blighted business on her Carlson Boulevard property.

The city is giving Baker and Booze until March 21 to clean up the 28,000-square-foot property or face further legal action. But exactly what Baker's role is with regards to the property is uncertain. In the past, Booze has claimed publicly to know little about her. But in a 2003 letter to the Contra Costa County Superior Court, he described her as his "domestic partner of 30 years."

During his council campaign, Booze paid Baker $18,000 from his campaign fund, listing the payment as being for the rental of his campaign office at the Carlson property, records show. However, the payment raises questions because Booze has continuously controlled the property, and the only structures on the site are in a deteriorated state, with broken windows and graffiti-covered walls. Booze's business license for the property expired in 2010. Since the city's code enforcement unit opened an investigation into the property, Booze has applied for a license renewal, but it likely will not be granted because the property is not zoned for automotive repair, junkyards, or automobile storage.

This is not the first time that the city has wrangled with Booze over the Carlson property. Booze ignored city abatement orders for the same problems in the early 1990s and then fought the city in court for four years, records show. After losing his final appeal in 1997, the city finally came in and cleaned up the property at taxpayer expense in 1999. More

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than 65 inoperable vehicles were removed, along with rusting oil drums, assorted garbage and dog feces, according to court documents.

During the three-day clean up in 1990, Booze allegedly battered Richmond Police Officer Lisa Pheil when she asked him to move his truck. The 230-pound Booze became angry and yelled obscenities, according to a summary of the police report, and then he moved aggressively toward Pheil, who is 5-foot-4 and weighs 110 pounds, and chest bumped her. Pheil put her hand up for protection and Booze swatted it down, according to the report.

Pheil, who is now retired, told me recently that she was surprised when Booze wasn't taken to jail for the battery, but not as surprised as she might have been. Five months before, Pheil had pulled Booze over in his truck and had given him a ticket for failing to register the vehicle for multiple years. Pheil said Booze was condescending to her and that he named councilmembers and police officers who were his friends. Pheil said that later that day, police brass pressured her to "make the ticket go away." Nonetheless, she said she still doesn't understand why Booze was not arrested for battering a police officer in front of at least three witnesses, including another police officer. "Had it been anyone else, they would have been immediately cuffed, booked, and put in jail," Pheil said. "My supervisor wrote up a crime report, but nothing ever happened, which is a shame because every time Booze gets away with something like that, it just feeds his distorted sense of self-entitlement."

Since Booze was elected to the council in 2010, he also has allegedly battered at least one other woman. On September 21, Booze's volunteer chief of staff Jackie Thompson showed up at the Richmond Police Department shaking and crying, according to a summary of a police report that was shared with the *Express*. Thompson claimed, according to the report, that Booze had attacked her two days before and that she had injured her head when he pushed her to the ground. Thompson, who at the time was 64 years old, had been a tireless volunteer for Booze's council campaign, and after he was elected, she volunteered to be his chief of staff.

According to the police report summary, on September 19, Thompson showed up at a MacDonald Street office building that Booze had used during his campaign. Thompson believed she had interrupted Booze in a romantic tryst with another city staffer, a much younger woman who Thompson considered her rival for Booze's attentions. Thompson found Booze in a state of undress, and the two argued. Thompson then resigned her position as Booze's chief of staff.

At one point, according the police report summary, Booze began pushing Thompson, who had recently had hip surgery and uses a cane to walk. Thompson fell to the ground and Booze dragged her by the ankle through the campaign office and out onto MacDonald Street, where he left her lying on the sidewalk, according to the police report summary. Thompson's claims of a head injury and chest injuries were verified by a Kaiser emergency room medical report, the summary stated. Nonetheless, the Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office refused to charge Booze because there were no witnesses. Thompson declined to comment about the incident.

Also in September, Booze was involved in a physical altercation with 72-year-old David Moore, another campaign volunteer. The two got into a brief fistfight outside of a candidates meeting. Moore was arrested and both men claimed the other started the fight. No charges were ever filed.

Over the years, Booze has had a lot of trouble in the courts. More than thirty civil actions have been filed against him in Contra Costa County, records show. The vast majority of the complaints are for nonpayment of debts; the plaintiffs include banks, credit card companies, and individuals. In one 1997 case, a woman named Jacquelyn Wingfield claimed that Booze had failed to repay $124,736 in loans that he used to bolster his gas station business, which is now defunct. The court found in Wingfield's favor, but there was a problem collecting the money, as there has been with other civil actions against Booze. Until recently, the four properties he controls in Richmond were all in Baker's name, which means that creditors have not been able to file property liens against him. Within the past year, however, he put his residence back in his name. Also on Booze's official statement of economic interests, which all councilmembers are required to file with the city, he reported that he had no salary, no business profits, and no stocks worth more than $900.

Corky Booze

In a brief interview, Booze denied any knowledge of the lawsuits and the allegations of battery. He said he is focused on helping the people of Richmond. He pointed to a $200,000 contribution to the Richmond Youthbuild program that Chevron made in his name. "I am just focused on creating jobs. I am a ceaseless advocate for more jobs," he said. "I am focused on helping my community and all of Richmond."

Booze is up for reelection in 2014 and Chevron is expected to back him because he often votes against the progressive majority on the council. Along with Councilman Nat Bates, who is heavily supported by Chevron, Booze has voted against bicycle and pedestrian projects, the general plan, which calls for new infrastructure and health-based policies, and the city's contract with a renewable energy provider. Booze has also called for an end to the free dock rental for the *Red Oak Victory* ship, which was built in Richmond's historic shipyards during World War II and continues to be a source of local pride. He has also railed against the city's Office of Neighborhood Safety, which is arguably one of the most innovative anti-crime programs in the country.

Ironically, the Richmond chapter of the NAACP awarded Booze with its Peace and Freedom Award in February despite the allegations that he is abusive and engages in divisive, race-baiting tactics. Councilwoman Jovanka Beckles, who like Booze is African-American, called the award a "mockery." "I think that many in Richmond know him to be a bully who makes regular abusive threats, including at council meetings," Beckles told the *West County Times*. "He has threatened to have physical harm done to me and to others." ●

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EAST BAY EXPRESS

# THE IRAQ WAR IS NOT DONE

### Refugees in the Bay Area face the challenge of finding work, overcoming language barriers, and dealing with the lingering emotional toll of war

By Alexa Underwood

Hassan Al Nawar was studying physics in Baghdad when the United States invaded Iraq. In the following months, his city grew more dangerous. Al Nawar said his professors were kidnapped and tortured, and some of his fellow students were killed in a car bomb attack. "At a certain point, I realized I had no control over these security issues. I wanted to live a normal life," he said. Al Nawar was one of the first Iraqis to be shepherded into the United States in 2007 under a Special Immigrant program. But his troubles didn't end there.

First off, he wasn't eligible for the eight months of assistance that Iraqis who are classified as refugees receive (although this policy later changed). But he soon found that finding employment was the most difficult part of coming to the United States. After arriving in Sacramento, Al Nawar immediately began looking for work. "I went on job interviews the first day I arrived," he said. He first applied to government jobs, but while he had relevant work experience, letters of recommendation, and had graduated at the top of his class, no one wanted to hire him because he wasn't a US citizen, Al Nawar said. He moved around the Bay Area, lived in Berkeley for a while, and interviewed for countless jobs. Target managers turned him down for a job, saying he was too qualified. After almost five years of looking for a full-time job, Al Nawar, now 29, finally found work editing Arabic language education curriculum in Monterey, and is pursuing art. His oil paintings are infused with images of Iraq and the Middle East. Though he still has relatives there, he has no plans to return to his homeland anytime soon, he said. "Iraq is still not safe or secure."

A decade after the US-led invasion of Iraq, the effects of the Iraq War continue to reverberate around the world. According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), nearly two million Iraqi refugees are scattered across the globe; this doesn't include the estimated 1.3 million people displaced within Iraq. Although the Obama administration declared the Iraq War over in December of 2011, sectarian clashes and frequent bombings make Iraq too dangerous for many people to return home. Many refugees remain in limbo in countries like Egypt, unable to legally work. Some are resettled in countries like the United States. Since 2007, the US Refugee Admissions Program, which makes decisions based on interviews and an individual person's circumstances, has resettled nearly 60,000 Iraqi refugees. About 1,000 Iraqis have been resettled in the Bay Area.

Once they get here, however, they face the challenge of finding work, overcoming language barriers, and dealing with the lingering emotional toll of losing one's family, home, and friends. The International Rescue Committee (IRC) helps refugees adjust to their new country, providing housing, health services, and employment assistance for the first three months after they arrive. Refugees also receive county assistance for eight months and can then apply for social service programs like food stamps. Other than that, "they're pretty much on their own," said Hans van de Weerd, the director of the IRC in Northern California, which is based in Oakland.

Samia Rafid has learned that the hard way. In 2006, Rafid fled Baghdad with her husband and three sons (whose names have all been changed at their request for fear of drawing attention to themselves) to escape the wave of sectarian violence that killed three members of her family. "We left because of the danger, and because my son needed medicine. There was none left in Iraq," said Rafid, whose son Mauayed, 20, suffers from developmental and physical disabilities as well as galactosemia, a rare genetic disease. After fleeing Iraq, Rafid sold her gold jewelry so that her family could rent an apartment in Cairo. Refugees are not legally allowed to work in Egypt, so Rafid spent much of this time trying to find medical treatment for her son. After four years, the UNHCR told the family that they would be resettled in the United States, but there was one caveat: Rafid's eldest son, Shahab, 27, was not allowed to come with them, and she still doesn't know why. As she told her story, Rafid's tone was matter-of-fact, as if she had told it many times before.

**"A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE THIS VISION OF RESETTLEMENT AS JUST STEPPING OFF A PLANE INTO THE US," SAID BOGRAND. "IT ISN'T THAT EASY. ... IT REALLY CAN TAKE A VERY LONG TIME."**

Now living in West Oakland, Rafid and her family face new and different challenges — a frustrating language barrier, economic woes, and persistent feelings of fear and isolation. Although she lives across town, Rafid travels to Fruitvale to do her shopping because that's where they were first resettled, and it is familiar. It's also where she can find rock-bottom prices. She receives government assistance for taking care of her disabled son, and her husband receives disability benefits due to a chronic stomach ailment, but they are still well below the federal poverty level for a family of four.

Language continues to be one of the hardest obstacles for Rafid to overcome. She recently took her youngest son to the emergency room at Highland Hospital by bus. "At the hospitals, there are never any translators, never," she said. Safety is also a concern. Two people were recently shot and killed down the street from her house. Rafid is often too scared to leave her home. Nonetheless, after the chaos of conflict in Iraq, she said she likes the orderliness of American society. Her biggest challenge is dealing with the loneliness and isolation that come from living far away from everyone she knows. "People need community," she said. "They need relatives and friends."

It took Hassan Al-Nawar five years to find stable employment in the United States.

Alexa Underwood

A new support group and learning circle for Iraqi women in San Francisco may help. The aim of the program, which is run by the Arab Cultural and Community Center (ACCC) in San Francisco, is to provide a place where Iraqi women like Rafid can find some semblance of community and navigate the lingering trauma of war. At a meeting in February that Rafid attended, the topic of discussion was how to navigate the transportation system in the Bay Area.

Louhna Qatami, the executive director of the Arab Cultural and Community Center, said the nonprofit expanded its programs aimed at helping Iraqi refugees in 2006 when she came on board. Many of the women Qatami met in these classes were highly educated and quickly assumed positions of leadership, she said. "They were really the opposite of what you would imagine of new refugees coming to the US, fearful of this new society. ... They were very proactive and engaged."

However, she noticed that while many Iraqi refugees were adapting to their new lives — working hard, putting their kids through school, and generally succeeding — emotional difficulties would often emerge years later: loneliness, depression, and constant fear. For some, it is the memories of war: the threat or reality of sexual violence, guns, explosions. For others, it's the inability to achieve the status they once held. Qatami remembers meeting two Iraqi men who were applying for jobs restocking vending machines. In Iraq, they had been doctors. "It makes you wonder, how does that impact get carried with them? How does it become a part of the healing or the estrangement process?" she said.

While refugees can apply for green cards after one year of living in the United States, and citizenship after five years, this involves passing a civics test, which is intimidating for many people with limited English skills. Andrew Bogrand, a spokesman for Refugee Transitions, a Bay Area nonprofit that provides tutoring and other help to new refugees, said that his organization's clients encounter plenty of obstacles on the road to successful resettlement. Among them is the fact that refugees are often housed in low-income, disadvantaged neighborhoods, and that children are placed in a grade level according to their age, regardless of whether or not they have the language skills they need. "A lot of people have this vision of resettlement as just stepping off a plane into the US," he said. "It isn't that easy. It's a very lengthy process of integration, community acceptance. It really can take a very long time."

Numerous studies show high rates of depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) among refugees, Bogrand added. While there are established mental health services for refugee communities with deeper roots in the Bay Area, like those from Vietnam and Laos, there are still not many options for local Iraqis.

To this end, the IRC in Oakland is developing a new mental health program, which would screen Iraqis and other refugees for PTSD and provide access to low-income clinics. The Arab Cultural and Community Center's new Iraqi women's support group and learning circle is another hopeful model. By the end of the February meeting, Rafid was talking animatedly with several of the other women in the circle while they snacked on sandwiches and fruit. When she stood up to leave, someone she had never met before that day kissed her on the cheek.

To Qatami, one factor that is exacerbating the problems Iraqi refugees face is that Iraq is no longer a topic of conversation for many in the United States, including those in the local Arab-American community. "Iraq is almost ... not part of the consciousness of many Americans," she said. "We created millions of refugees. People think, it's done, we're out of Iraq. It's not done." ■

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Parker Place, proposed for downtown Berkeley, is tied up in the courts even though it would be one of the greenest housing developments in city history.

# How An Environmental Law Is Harming the Environment

## California's signature environmental law needs to be reformed because NIMBYs are using it to block smart growth.

By Robert Gammon

Ali Kashani thought he had a sure thing. In 2008, the longtime Berkeley developer proposed to build one of the greenest housing projects in East Bay history. Kashani has long been an advocate for smart-growth development — dense housing and mixed-use projects built on major transit corridors in urban areas. And the architect that he commissioned for his smart-growth project in Berkeley designed it to meet LEED Platinum standards.

Located on Shattuck Avenue, Kashani's proposed Parker Place development sits on a major AC Transit bus line and is just a short walk from the downtown Berkeley and Ashby BART stations. Residents are to receive free transit passes and have access to car sharing. Plus, there will be 130 bike parking spots, an onsite bicycle repair shop, and electrical plug-in stations for electric cars and plug-in hybrids.

The 155-unit project also includes adaptive reuse of the existing architecture, drought-tolerant landscaping, rainwater reuse, and an onsite retention pond for irrigation. Thirty-one of the units will be affordable housing, and there will be a medical clinic for the homeless onsite.

In other words, the Parker Place project is a liberal environmentalist's dream. It has won the endorsement of the Greenbelt Alliance, an environmental group that advocates for smart growth, and TransForm, a progressive organization that backs public transit. Both groups recognize that Parker Place will help Berkeley meet its climate-change goals, because it will provide much needed urban housing near jobs and mass transit, thereby helping lessen the need for suburban sprawl and greenhouse-gas belching commutes.

But nothing's ever a sure thing in Berkeley, a city that is home to some of the most vocal and stubborn anti-growth activists in the state. In November 2010, after the Berkeley City Council approved Parker Place, a small group of these activists sued to block the project using the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to do it. And now, more than four years after Kashani unveiled his proposal, it's still tied up in litigation. "They really don't like infill projects," Kashani said, referring to how anti-growth activists view urban development. "And they're holding up good projects that could be on the market."

The suit against Parker Place is all too common. The state legislature adopted CEQA (pronounced see-kwa) more than forty years ago as part of a comprehensive effort to protect the environment. But anti-growth activists are now using the landmark environmental law to stymie projects that would help fight climate change.

In the past few years, a consortium of business and some labor groups in California has pushed for sweeping reforms of the law. And this year, they hope to convince legislators in Sacramento to overhaul it. They already have a powerful ally in Democratic Governor Jerry Brown. As mayor of Oakland, Brown witnessed first-hand the use of CEQA to block smart growth, and has called reforming the law "the Lord's work."

Although many environmental groups recognize that CEQA is sometimes misused, they staunchly oppose the most recent calls for reform out of fear that the law will be gutted. They correctly note that CEQA still plays a vital role in protecting California's numerous endangered and threatened species, and provides an important check on suburban and rural growth projects, highway expansions, and proposals for new refineries and fossil-fuel power plants. Over the years, CEQA also has helped protect low-income communities from toxic incinerators and landfills.

From that perspective, the law does not need to be overhauled. But there is ample evidence that it does need reforming, particularly when it comes to smart growth and transit-oriented development. "It has gotten in the way of projects that arguably should be considered environmentally sustainable," noted Jeremy Madsen, executive director of Greenbelt Alliance. "Climate change has changed the whole game."

Indeed, the numerous threats posed by climate change prove definitively that aspects of California's signature environmental law are woefully out of date.

By the late 1960s, there was widespread, bipartisan agreement in Sacramento that state government needed to do more to protect the environment from polluters. There also was a recognition that California residents needed a powerful tool to fight against unwanted development. And so in 1970, then-Governor Ronald Reagan signed the California Environmental Quality Act. Ever since, the comprehensive law has required public agencies throughout the state to examine dozens of environmental issues related to virtually every development proposal in California.

But a lot has changed since 1970. Back then, no one was talking about global warming. And no one realized that the biggest threat to the environment in the 21st century would be greenhouse-gas emissions and that a major contributor to this problem would be commuters who live in suburban and rural regions of the state and drive long hours to work in urban areas.

According to a 2009 report from the US Environmental Protection Agency, the nation's transportation sector produces 28 percent of all greenhouse-gas emissions in the country, and that figure rises to as much as 40 percent in some states, including California. According to a 2010 UC Irvine study, rural and suburban residents in California consume up to nearly three times as many gallons of fossil fuel each year as city dwellers.

The problem is especially acute in the Bay Area. The US Census recently reported that the region leads the nation in so-called "mega-commuters" — people who drive more than fifty miles and ninety minutes both to and from work each day. The Bay Area also ranks eighth nationwide in carbon emissions per capita, according to a 2008 report from the Brookings Institution.

And while many Republicans still claim that climate change is a hoax, a new study released last week revealed that global temperatures are higher now than at any time in the past 4,000 years. Even Wall Street is betting on the fact that climate change is going to unleash serious impacts on the environment. Last week, *Bloomberg Businessweek* reported that Wall Street hedge funds and other firms are pumping loads of cash into financial ventures that hope to profit from the severe effects of global warming.

Locally, Berkeley has played a role in making climate change worse. The city historically has been plagued by a housing shortage, and so the overwhelming majority of people who work in Berkeley must commute from somewhere else. According to recent research conducted at UC Berkeley, only 17 percent of the jobs in the city are filled by Berkeley residents. And if you exclude employment on the Cal campus, the percentage of people who live and work in the city drops below 10 percent, said Dave Fogarty of the city's economic development division. Many UC Berkeley faculty members, he noted, prefer to live close to the university.

But CEQA, because it was adopted more than four decades ago, is not designed to adequately address the multiple threats to the environment posed by climate change. The Parker Place project, for example, does not receive proper credit for supplying housing close to jobs so that people can walk, bike, or take mass transit to work. Instead, the law and the anti-growth activists who use it to block smart growth, still treat all development — be it urban, suburban, or rural — as essentially the same.

"The fact that development can be done that is environmentally beneficial is a new paradigm," noted Madsen of Greenbelt Alliance, which supports modest reforms to CEQA to encourage more smart growth.

Over the years, CEQA has become perhaps the most important law in California. State and local public agencies must adhere to it when making nearly every type of decision — even when cutting bus service, building bike lanes, or changing the configuration of city streets. For development, CEQA requires a comprehensive review that analyzes numerous potential environmental impacts for each project and proposes offsets, or mitigations, for impacts found to be "significant."

CEQA also provides opponents of a project with a smorgasbord of opportunities to file lawsuits challenging nearly every aspect of it. From an environmental perspective, that makes sense if the project in question threatens endangered species or would worsen carbon emissions. But many anti-growth activists in urban areas are still using CEQA as they would have in 1970, blocking all development they don't want for their communities.

According to a recent study by the law firm Holland & Knight, 80 percent of the projects challenged under CEQA in state appellate courts or the California Supreme Court from 1997 to 2012 involved infill development. In addition, the prospect of spending years in litigation sometimes prompts developers to just give up on their projects — which is exactly what people often referred to as NIMBYs (for Not In My Backyard) want to happen.

Compounding the problem is that many CEQA regulations are legally vague and open to varying judicial interpretations. As a result,

Jerry Brown has called reforming CEQA "the Lord's work."

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Parker Place provides a case study in how CEQA could be reformed.

smart growth developers and city officials can't know for sure whether they'll win or lose when they walk into court. Since CEQA became law, development opponents have won 43 percent of the CEQA lawsuits that resulted in published appellate or Supreme Court decisions, according to a 2011 study conducted by the law firm Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger.

"The law has become so dysfunctional," said Jennifer Hernandez, an attorney for the Holland & Knight firm and a Berkeley resident who advocates for broad reform of CEQA. "To call this environmental protection anymore — it's really about quality-of-life" issues.

Indeed, according to several East Bay city officials interviewed for this report, anti-growth activists in Berkeley and Oakland most often challenge transit-oriented development for reasons that have much more to do with protecting their quality of life than the environment. Take so-called "traffic impacts." NIMBYs often contend that adding new city residents will worsen traffic in their neighborhoods, but ignore the fact that urban dwellers tend to have a substantially smaller carbon footprint than people who live in suburban or rural areas.

And in an equally Orwellian argument, smart growth is now sometimes attacked for supposedly producing too many greenhouse-gas emissions, officials say. Anti-growth activists use CEQA to object to the number of "truck trips" that will occur during construction of a smart-growth project, while failing to acknowledge that suburban sprawl results in far more car trips in aggregate, and thus is much worse for the environment.

The California Legislature has approved minor reforms to CEQA during the past decade in an effort to spur smart growth. But CEQA still allows anti-growth activists to pervert environmental law. For example, the group that sued to block Parker Place contended that the city's environmental study was "inadequate," essentially because the project involves the cleaning up of polluted soil and groundwater.

Yes, you read that right. A project that would not only help fight climate change but also would clean up contaminated soil and groundwater in downtown Berkeley has been blocked in court thanks to a law that's supposed to protect the environment.

Last August, Alameda Superior Court Judge Evelio Grillo ruled in favor of Parker Place and dismissed the opponents' suit. But the opponents, who call themselves Parker Shattuck Neighbors and include Berkeley Planning Commissioner Patti Dacey, are not giving up. They have appealed the judge's decision. An appellate court ruling could come this May, but the opponents may then appeal all the way to the state Supreme Court.

Andrew Sabey, a land-use attorney who represents Kashani, said the Parker Place litigation provides a case study in how CEQA could be reformed to help expedite smart growth. He noted that it's not unusual for transit-oriented projects to be built on former urban brownfields. This is yet another advantage of smart-growth development: It can provide the needed incentive to clean up polluted areas with private capital.

In the case of Parker Place, there was an underground storage tank underneath the longtime Honda dealership and repair shop. In 2006, California regulators placed the site on a state register known as the Cortese List, because the tank had previously released pollution into the nearby soil. Evidence in the case revealed that there are 33 Cortese List sites in downtown Berkeley within one-half mile of Parker Place.

Under CEQA, the opponents of the project were allowed to hire their own expert hydrologist, who then contended that the property was "significantly contaminated" and needed a more thorough environmental study known as an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The city had completed a less comprehensive study known as a Mitigated Negative Declaration. Sabey pointed out that the city's own expert had investigated the site in 2006 and determined that it was not significantly contaminated.

Such disagreements among dueling experts are common in lawsuits involving infill projects. They fall under what is known as the "fair argument standard," an aspect of CEQA that gives anti-growth activists a potent weapon with which to challenge smart growth development. "It creates a very easy opportunity to take a case to court," Sabey explained. "It creates an incredibly low threshold for NIMBYs to find someone with some initials after their name" to contradict a city's expert in court.

Making matters worse is the fact that a site can never get off the Cortese List — even after it's been cleaned up, Sabey noted. In this case, the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board determined in 2011 that the Parker Place location was a "closed" site and thus not a hazard. But the site is still on the Cortese List.

Sabey and East Bay city officials interviewed for this story contend that both the fair argument standard and the Cortese List rules should be reformed for smart-growth projects. "That would be a big step for a lot of urban infill development sites," Sabey said.

But is it enough?

Although CEQA was patterned after the National Environmental Policy Act, it has unique characteristics. Similar environmental laws in other states only allow bona fide environmental groups to sue to block development, said Hernandez of the Holland & Knight law firm. But that's not the case in California. Here, virtually anyone can file a lawsuit under the state's primary environmental law.

California also does not require transparency. Groups who sue to block development do not have to disclose the identities of their members or who funds them, Hernandez noted. As a result, it's possible in California that corporations are financing CEQA lawsuits through front groups in order to block their competitors' development projects.

And sometimes businesses just do it openly. The CEQA Working Group, a coalition of business and labor organizations that wants to broadly reform the law, has been chronicling instances in which CEQA has been misused. One example involves the owner of a San Jose gas station, Andy's BP, who filed a CEQA lawsuit in 2010 against his competitor across the street, Moe's Stop gas station, because the owner of Moe's wanted to add three gas dispensers to his business. The owner of Andy's BP cited "traffic impacts" — and won in court, forcing the owner of Moe's to conduct a full-blown EIR.

Ultimately, the owner of Moe's completed the EIR and installed his gas dispensers. But the whole process cost him $525,000 more than it would have had he not been sued.

"That's not allowed in any other state," Hernandez said of environmental lawsuits filed by one business to block a competitor's project. "In all other states, the only parties that get to sue under environmental law ... are environmental groups."

California legislators, however, are unlikely to change the law to require transparency in CEQA lawsuits or limit the filing of them to environmental organizations. The reason, Hernandez explained, is that unions sometimes file CEQA litigation — or threaten to do so — when a project does not guarantee that it will employ union labor. As a result, there's no appetite in the Democratic-controlled legislature "for even requiring disclosure," Hernandez said.

Before he resigned last month to take a job with Chevron, Michael Rubio, a moderate Democratic state senator from Bakersfield, had been leading the charge for a sweeping overhaul of CEQA. But Rubio's reform proposals were not limited to smart growth in cities and likely would have paved the way for more suburban and rural projects as well. Understandably, many environmental groups responded with concern.

Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, a Democrat who represents Sacramento, is an advocate for smart-growth and is expected to take a more cautious approach to reform now that Rubio is gone. Steinberg is the author of SB 375, a landmark climate-change law enacted in 2008 that is designed to increase urban density in California. Nonetheless, several prominent environmental groups, including the Sierra Club and the Center for Biological Diversity, still oppose the push for CEQA reform this year out of concern that the legislature will render the law toothless.

"They're not really talking about making it easier for infill development in Oakland and Berkeley," argued Kassie Siegel, senior counsel for the Center for Biological Diversity, which has used CEQA and other environmental laws to fight highway expansions and other projects in suburban and rural areas, and even in cities when developments threaten endangered species. "They're talking about gutting CEQA."

Siegel and other environmentalists also point out that CEQA lawsuits are not nearly as common as often portrayed. Some studies have shown that no more than 1.5 percent of all public agency decisions that involve CEQA result in lawsuits. And they note that a 2011 law, SB 226, helped streamline approvals for environmentally sustainable development. SB 226, for example, exempts solar power systems installed on existing roofs or over parking lots from CEQA lawsuits.

However, fears that the legislature will gut CEQA this year appear to be overblown — precisely because some environmental and labor groups (the labor community is divided over whether to reform the law) fervently oppose such a plan. It seems farfetched to believe that Democrats will vote for proposals that substantial portions of their two main constituencies don't want.

And that's a good thing. CEQA still has a vital role to play in protecting our environment — as it should. One would be hard-pressed to make a case for reforming an environmental law so as to green light more suburban development or more pollution-causing projects.

We also still need environmental protections in urban areas for industrial projects that put people's health at risk. Likewise, environmental protections in cities like Berkeley and Oakland remain critically important when it comes to open space areas, including the hills and the shoreline.

But for urban centers and areas on or near major transit corridors, there's still plenty of room for reform. Changing the Cortese List rules and the "fair argument standard" is a good place to start. But that doesn't go far enough. City dwellers who don't want more traffic in their neighborhoods shouldn't be able to use the state's main environmental law to block projects that actually help the environment overall.

And this misuse of the law likely won't stop as a result of incremental reform. Instead, the only sensible solution is to exempt all smart growth — urban transit-oriented development projects that are designed for housing or a mix of retail or commercial space and housing — from CEQA lawsuits.

Our primary environmental law should protect the environment against the greatest threat it faces — climate change — and not make it harder to implement solutions that help fight that threat. ●

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# EVENTS & ATTRACTIONS

## Let the Good Game Con Begin

Oakland sees its first-ever video-game conference

Video-game conventions, or "cons," have been happening for decades, and their popularity shows no signs of waning. The biggest general gaming convention in the world, Tokyo Game Show, set an attendance record last year with more than 200,000 eager gamers competing, industry heads unveiling new products, and spectators reveling in the modern marvel of video-game culture.

*Super Street Fighter IV Arcade Edition*

On Friday and Saturday, March 15-16, Oakland welcomes its first-ever gaming convention, Good Game Con, at Laney College (900 Fallon St., Oakland). Launched by two ambitious students in the Laney video-game club — "The Round Table" — Good Game Con is certainly not going to be a convention of EVO- or Tokyo Game Show-style proportions, at least not yet. "Some of these gaming cons were started by college kids, though," said 21-year-old club president Sean Bovell. "So we were like, 'Why can't we make our own in Oakland?'"

Bovell, along with fellow Round Table member Harry To, decided to create something that went beyond the small, run-of-the-mill tournaments that happen regularly on the gaming circuit. Typical tournaments operate with "pots." All gamers add money to the pot, and the winner gets to take home their humble bounty. Bovell and To, however, secured sponsors and got support from Laney in order to be able to give away $1,000 to the first-place winner, along with a total of $4,000 in other prizes for the whole competition. "That was a big feat for us," said Bovell. "That just doesn't happen that often."

The Good Game Con tournament will feature six fighting video games (*Super Street Fighter IV Arcade Edition* and *Super Smash Brothers Melee* among them), a computer game called *League of Legends*, and a *Magic: The Gathering* tournament on the side. Also on hand will be vintage gaming consoles on loan from the Museum of Art and Digital Entertainment in downtown Oakland. "Those are just for fun though," said Bovell. "It's pretty funny seeing what games used to be like."

In order to elevate the convention beyond simple gaming-tournament status, Bovell and To organized several tangential video-game-related activities as well. Game designers — including Chris McGee, one of the designers of the *Star Wars* games — will be on hand to offer insider knowledge about the industry. Other extracurriculars will include anime screenings, costume competitions, a female-friendly twist on the Japanese "maid cafe" (where servers dress up as parlor maids), and an exhibit of anime- and video-game-inspired art.

Bovell and To would like to hold Good Game Con again next year, and if they can amass a bigger team — their "staff list" currently includes 57 volunteers — hope to coordinate with the City of Oakland on an event that is "even bigger." They're not aiming to go quite as big as the Tokyo Game Show, Bovell allowed. "But yeah, I think it should be pretty awesome." 9 a.m.-9 p.m., $10 admission, $20 to compete. GoodGameCon.com

— *Azeen Ghorayshi*

### ATTRACTIONS

**Art Opening Party** Watch local artists create original works, which are available for purchase after event. Third Friday of every month, 8 p.m., free. Actual Cafe, 6334 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, 510-653-5386. ActualCafe.com.

### FAIRS, FESTIVALS, & FIESTAS

**40th Anniversary St. Patrick's Day Celebration** For the 40th year, The Starry Plough will celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a meal, 12 hours of continuous live Irish music and dance. Sun., Mar. 17, 4 p.m.-2 a.m., $10. Starry Plough, 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-2082. StarryPloughPub.com.

**Art IS Education 2013** An annual showcase of youth arts learning in Alameda County in March during National Arts Education Month. Check ArtIsEducation.org for specific event details. Through Mar. 31, free.

**Human Rights International Film Festival** A selection of international films with distinctive human rights themes. Check YBCA.org for screening details. Thursdays. Continues through Mar. 28, $10 per screening. Yerba Buena Center Theater, 700 Howard St., San Francisco, 415-978-[illegible]. YBCA.org.

**St. Vincent de Paul's 75th Anniversary** In honor of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Alameda County's 75th anniversary, Chef Robert Dorsey III will prepare a four-course meal with the help of Kitchen of Champions culinary program students and alumni. Thu., Mar. 14, 11:30-1:30 p.m., $15. St. Vincent de Paul of Alameda County Community Center, 2272 San Pablo Ave., Oakland.

**Zero Waste Week** A week of tours, receptions, speaking engagements, and meetings to learn about zero waste, sustainability, reuse, recycling, and composting. Visit NCRARecycles.org/Zero-Waste-Week for specific event details. Mar. 11-22.

### HEALTH, WELLNESS, & SEXUALITY

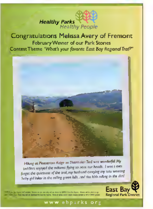
**Acupuncture Clinic** Anna Lanzisane, L.Ac., MTCM, leads a meditative, healing group acupuncture session. Tea provided. First and third Friday of every month, 12:30-1:30 p.m., $20-$30. Moments Grand Lake, 3229 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-832-9642. [illegible].com.

**"Are You Healing or Enabling your Life?"** A talk by Sarah Estrey, founder of [illegible] Inc., a spiritually-based business dedicated to helping individuals "step into a new era of greater alignment, greater peace, and greater healing." Wed., Mar. 20, 1 p.m., free. [illegible] Health Arthouse, 2118 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. [illegible]ArtHouse.org.

**Berkeley Free Clinic Week** Join Good Vibrations for a week-long info night featuring the Berkeley Free Clinic. Tue., Mar. 19, 6-8 p.m., free. Good Vibrations, 2504 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-8987. GoodVibes.com.

**"Child of Tradition, Child of Society"** Through the three Universal Principles of Harmony, Breema offers a practical direction to lead a harmonious and meaningful life. Fri., Mar. 15, 7-8 p.m., free. The Breema Center, 6076 Claremont Ave., Oakland, 510-428-0937. Breema.com.

**East Bay [illegible] Free Group** Call Susan Malley at 510-655-3218 or e-mail [illegible] for more information. First and third Tuesday of every month, 3-5 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Rockridge Branch, 5366 College Ave., Oakland, 510-597-5017. OaklandLibrary.org.



Congratulations Melissa Avery of Fremont

February Winner of our Park Stories

Contest Theme *"What's your favorite East Bay Regional Trail?"*

*Hiking at Pleasanton Ridge on Thermalito Trail was wonderful. My toddlers enjoyed the vultures flying so near our heads. I won't ever forget the quietness of the trail, my husband carrying my tutu wearing baby girl hiker in the rolling green hills, and the kids rolling in the dirt!*

# PICKS

## Greil Marcus

In 1978, famed rock critic and current UC Berkeley lecturer Greil Marcus asked twenty of his fellow music writers the following question: If you found yourself stranded on a desert island, what one rock 'n' roll album would you choose to take with you? From Lester Bangs' ode to Van Morrison's *Astral Weeks* to Robert Christgau's musings on the New York Dolls' self-titled debut, the twenty essays that resulted were compiled in *Stranded: Rock and Roll for a Desert Island*, which also included an indulgent list of Marcus' personal recommendations for any desert island soundtrack. On Thursday, Mar. 14, join Marcus at Stranded (6436 Telegraph Ave., Oakland) — the name, by the way, is pure and perfect coincidence — for a special look back at the 35-year-old rock 'n' roll time capsule. 6 p.m. Free. StrandedinOakland.com — *Azeen Ghorayshi*

Melanie [illegible]

## A Naked Lady Soiree

For women, vintage shopping can be a glorified girl-to-girl check-out. At all times, you're guaranteed to be secretly or not-so-secretly eyeing your fellow customers' duds, awe-inspired by the diverse shopping prowess of the women of the world. These good vibes are part of the inspiration behind the monthly clothing swap — dubbed "A Naked Lady Soiree" — happening this month on Sunday, Mar. 17, at Halmoni Vintage ([illegible] 2nd Ave., Oakland). The women-only swap aims to promote a healthy approach to body consciousness and fashion, all while attendees sip fancy cocktails, munch on hors d'oeuvres, and mingle with fellow lovers of vintage. Bring a bag of gently worn clothes, accessories, and shoes to swap, and then feel free to ogle your fellow vintage-ladies' styles. Fortunately, this time everything's up for grabs. 6-8 p.m., $5-$10 sliding scale. Halmoni.net/A-Naked-Lady-Soiree — *A.G.*

**Eat Game. Love Move.** With healthy cooking classes, yoga, Qi Gong, Capoeira, and Zumba classes, and nutrition consultations. Third Sunday of every month, 9:30 a.m. free. [illegible] at the Jack London Square Farmer's Market, Webster and Embarcadero, Oakland.

**Guided Meditation with Jeanette Panagopoulos** Meditate in the galleries in conjunction with Silence and Himalayan Pilgrimage: Sacred Sites. Sun., Mar. 10, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., $10. BAM/PFA, 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-642-0808. BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu.

**Women First Aid & Medicine for Pets, Children, & People, Too!** Learn how to use the power of plants to treat cuts, puncture wounds, boils, abscesses, sprains, and fractures. Each participant goes away with a poultice and herbal salve that can be used on all animals and people too. Sun., Mar. 17, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. $35. Biofuel Oasis, 1441 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. BiofuelOasis.com.

**[illegible] Project Support Group** A [illegible] support group seeking to re-invent the notion of [illegible]. Advocates self-care, awareness, mutual aid, respect, and self-expression. Third and first Wednesday of every month. free. [illegible] Collective, 2214 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-238-5411. [illegible]Collective.com.

**[illegible] Women Circle** For ages 55 and up. [illegible] Tuesdays, 4-5 p.m. $3 suggested donation. South Berkeley Senior Center, 2939 Ellis St., Berkeley. 510-981-5170.

**Peer Counseling** With confidential drop-in counseling with a talk therapy approach. Mondays-Fridays, 4:30 p.m. free. 510-548-2570. Berkeley Free Clinic, 2339 Durant Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-2570. BerkeleyFreeClinic.org.

**"Practical Magic: 5 Keys to Manifestation"** [illegible], author of "The Art & Science of Manifesting," [illegible] offers a powerful synthesis of "inner" mindset work. Thu., Mar. 14, 1-5 p.m., $15 advance, $20 door. Julia's Coffee & Tea Garden, 1223 Park St., Alameda. 510-865-2385. [illegible]

**Widows/Widowers Grief Recovery Circle and Support Group** A safe place for sharing experiences of loss and grief, facilitating understanding of the grieving process and encouraging hope. Open to widows and widowers of all ages no matter how far along they are in their grief process. Sundays, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Continues through Mar. 24. free. First Presbyterian Church, 2407 Dana St., Berkeley. 510-848-6242. FPCBerkeley.org.

## KIDS

**Art Workshop with MOCHA** Artists from the Museum of Children's Art explore art workshops with different themes each week. Wednesdays, 2-4 p.m. free. Oakland Public Library, 81st Ave. Branch, 1021 81st Ave., Oakland. 510-615-5910. OaklandLibrary.org.

**Constellations Tonight** Using a [illegible] map, learn to identify the most prominent constellations of each season in the [illegible] sky. Saturdays, Sundays, 2-2:45 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. $4. Lawrence Hall of Science, 1 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-642-5133. LawrenceHallofScience.org.

**[illegible] Egg Hunt and Learning Festival** [illegible] egg hunts and [illegible]. For children 12 years of age and under. Sat., [illegible], 11 a.m.-3 p.m. free. Memorial Stadium, 100 Memorial Stadium, Berkeley. 510-642-3277. [illegible]

**Game Day** Play games on the Xbox, Wii, and PS3. [illegible] Saturdays, 3-5 p.m. free. Oakland Public Library, 81st Ave. Branch, 1021 81st Ave., Oakland. 510-615-5812. OaklandLibrary.org.

**"How Big is the Universe?"** A planetarium show demonstrating the [illegible] and to [illegible] astronomical distances. Saturdays, Sundays, 3-3:45 p.m. Continues through May 19. $4. Lawrence Hall of Science, 1 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-642-5133. LawrenceHallofScience.org.

**Ivy + Bean, The Musical** The misadventures of the award-winning Ivy + Bean series by local author Annie Barrows will be getting their world premiere [illegible]. Presented by Bay Area Children's Theatre. Saturdays, Sundays, 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. Continues through Apr. 21. [illegible] 2020 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-548-[illegible]

**Jack and the Beanstalk** Walnut Creek's [illegible] presents the kids' classic on the third [illegible] in its 40th season. Thu., Mar. 14, 9:30 & 11 a.m., Fri., Mar. 15, 9:30, 11 a.m. & 7 p.m., Sat., Mar. 16, 11 a.m., 12, 2 & 4 p.m., Sun., Mar. 17, 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. $14. Lesher Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-295-1400. LesherArtsCenter.org.

**Open House at the [illegible]** [illegible] Sat., Mar. 16, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free with museum admission. Lawrence Hall of Science, 1 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-642-5133. LawrenceHallofScience.org.

**Preschool Storytime** A reading event for preschoolers. First and third Wednesday of every month, 10:30 a.m. free. Oakland Public Library, Rockridge Branch, 5366 College Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5017. OaklandLibrary.org.

**[illegible] Art, and Drama Fairy Tales** Teaching kids drama and [illegible] engagement, movement-building, and [illegible]. Sun., Mar. 17, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. free. Ecology Center, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-2220. EcologyCenter.org.

**"Run, Jump, Fly and Spin"** Explore kinetic movement and the laws of motion by [illegible]. Through May 5. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. free with museum admission. Lawrence Hall of Science, 1 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-642-5133. LawrenceHallofScience.org.

**Saturday Storytime!** For kids [illegible]. Saturdays, 2 p.m. free. Barnes & Noble, 5604 Bay St., Emeryville. 510-547-0905. BarnesAndNoble.com.

**[illegible] Time with [illegible]** In the Children's Department. For ages three and under. Wednesdays, 11 a.m., free. Barnes & Noble, 5604 Bay St., Emeryville. 510-547-0905. BarnesAndNoble.com.

**Video Game Programming for Kids** A class for kids over age 10 to learn how to program, create simple games, and other game development ideas. Saturdays, 11 a.m.-noon. free. The Museum of Art and Digital Entertainment, 610 16th St., Oakland. TheMADE.org.

## LGBT

**Butch-Stud [illegible] Group** A weekly drop-in support group for masculine female identified women [illegible] butches, studs, aggs, etc.). Mondays, 7-9 p.m. free. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

**Lesbians of Color Support Group** A drop-in peer group for lesbian women of color to discuss issues in a safe environment. Thursdays, 7-9 p.m. free. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

**[illegible]** No previous experience necessary to participate in this erotic massage gathering. Every other Friday, 7:30 p.m. $20, with a $5 discount for bringing your own [illegible]. [illegible] Aquarian Heart Center, [illegible] Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-496-[illegible]. [illegible]

## PETS

**East Bay [illegible] Adoptions** With cats and dogs available for adoption. Third Sunday of every month, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Continues through Mar. 17. EastBaySPCA.org. Zachary's Chicago Pizza, 5801 College Ave., Oakland. 510-655-6385. ZacharysPizza.com.

**Feral Cat Foundation [illegible]** With fostered cats available for adoption. Saturdays, 12-5:30 p.m. FeralCatFoundation.org. Pet Food Express, North Oakland, 6398 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-573-[illegible]. PetFoodExpress.com.

**[illegible] Thursdays** Get [illegible] on house training your puppy, grooming, [illegible]. Consults are limited to five minutes, as time allows. Thursdays, 5-8 p.m. free. [illegible], 2995 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-7120. [illegible]

**Golden State Greyhound Adoptions** With Greyhounds available for adoption. Third Saturday of every month, 12-3 p.m. [illegible] Pet Food Express, Alameda, [illegible] Alameda. 510-864-2272. PetFoodExpress.com.

**Pet Loss Support Group** A drop-in group for those preparing for or already grieving the loss of a pet. [illegible] of every month, 1-[illegible] p.m. [illegible] Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society, 2700 Ninth St., Berkeley. 510-845-7735. BerkeleyHumane.org.

**Pet Loss Support Group** A drop-in group for those preparing for or already grieving the loss of a pet. Third Wednesday of every month, 6:30-8 p.m. free. Alameda Animal Shelter, 1590 Fortmann Way, Alameda. (510) 337-[illegible].

## RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

**[illegible] for Moms** A spiritually guided monthly and support circle for mamas of children with special needs. Third Saturday of every month, 10-11:30 a.m. [illegible] Julia's Coffee & Tea Garden, 1223 Park St., Alameda. 510-865-2385. [illegible]

**A Cup of Tea from Spirit** With tea, treats, and chants to awaken spirits and ancestors. To RSVP [illegible]. Third Sunday of every month, 3-5 p.m. $5-$10. Julia's Coffee & Tea Garden, 1223 Park St., Alameda. 510-865-2385. [illegible]

**Kum Nye** A drop-in class for Tibetan [illegible] relieving tension, and revitalizing body and mind. Sundays, 10 a.m.-noon, $15. Tibetan Nyingma Institute, 1815 Highland Pl., Berkeley. 510-843-6812. Nyingma.org.

**[illegible] Passover Experience** A kids Passover event. Bake your own Shmurah Matzah, [illegible] participate in a [illegible] and Meet Moses and the Pharaoh. Sun., Mar. 17, 12-1:30 p.m. $5. Chabad of the East Bay, [illegible] Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-540-5824. ChabadBerkeley.org.

**Public Satsang** With spiritual [illegible] Peter Brown. First and third Wednesday of every month, 7:30-9 p.m. $10-$15. [illegible] Women's Club, [illegible] St., Berkeley. 510-848-3227. [illegible]Club.org.

## SALES, SWAPS, PROMOTIONS, & FUNDRAISERS

**Alameda West End Flea Market** With collectibles, custom jewelry, [illegible] accessories, fashion, home decor, and vintage and antique items. Saturdays, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. free. 510-599-1431. WestEndFleaMarket.com. College of Alameda, 555 [illegible] Ave., Alameda. 510-522-7221. Alameda.Peralta.edu.

**Appreciating Diversity Fundraiser with Poncho Sanchez** A [illegible] benefit. The Piedmont [illegible] Diversity [illegible] grants program, which has donated over $9,000 this school year for [illegible] programming, events, and materials supporting and promoting diversity in schools and community. Ticket includes dinner and a drink. Fri., Mar. 15, 6:30 p.m. $85. Yoshi's Oakland, 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland. 510-238-9200. Yoshis.com.

**The Princess Project** The Princess Project is giving away free prom dresses and accessories to high school girls who otherwise couldn't afford them. At [illegible] St. in San Francisco. Sat., Mar. 16, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m., free.

## SOCIAL EVENTS

**[illegible] Mondays** Mondays, 7 p.m. free. The Fireside Lounge, 1453 Webster St., Alameda. 510-864-1244. TheFiresideLounge.com.

More Listings Online
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**[illegible] Bingo** [illegible] hosts a weekly bingo game, free prizes, to raise funds for women nonprofits. This week's game raises funds for Girl [illegible]. Thursdays, 7-9 p.m. $3-$20. [illegible] Cafe, [illegible] San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-[illegible]

**Cato's Trivia Night** Quiz master Chuck B. hosts a weekly [illegible]. Mondays, 7:30 p.m. free. Cato's Ale House, 3891 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. 510-655-3349. [illegible]

**[illegible] Meet, Eat, & [illegible]** [illegible] meet [illegible] and eat organic or vegan food. Third Monday of every month, 6 p.m. CodePINK, 1240 [illegible] Ave., Albany. 510-524-1170. BayAreaCodePINK.org.

**[illegible] Connections** An ongoing [illegible] for [illegible] new mothers and pre-crawling babies. Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.-noon. Continues through Apr. 13. $135. [illegible], 3410 Webster St., [illegible]

**Music Night Out** In addition to walking the museum exhibits, enjoy live music, [illegible] food, and California beer and wine tasting. Fri., Mar. 15, 6-9 p.m. Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-318-8400. MuseumCA.org.

**[illegible] Science** Explore the museum at night, with food, beer, and wine available for purchase. [illegible] Third Friday of every month, 7-11 p.m. $12. Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7373. ChabotSpace.org.

**[illegible]** A weekly yoga session [illegible] by live music by [illegible] musicians. Mondays, 6:30-8 p.m., $5-$15. [illegible] 2232 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland.

**[illegible] Women of the Bay [illegible]** The event will celebrate the many contributions of several outstanding women [illegible] in the San Francisco Bay Area. Thu., Mar. 14, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. $15. Scott's Seafood, [illegible] 2 Broadway, Oakland.

**Pub Quiz** Teams of two to five [illegible] compete for prizes, hosted by [illegible]. Third Tuesday of every month, 7:30-10 p.m. free. The Missouri Lounge, 2600 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-2080. TheMissouriLounge.com.

**[illegible] Slam** With a monthly [illegible]. Third and first Saturday of every month, 1-5:30 p.m. [illegible] Your Move Games and [illegible], 4920 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-547-4380. [illegible]

**[illegible]** Sundays, 7:30 p.m., free. The Fireside Lounge, 1453 Webster St., Alameda. 510-864-1244. TheFiresideLounge.com.

## SPORTS & OUTDOORS-PARTICIPATORY

**Albany Iron Woman Team** Meet the group at [illegible] Crepe Cafe at 8 a.m. There will be two routes [illegible] for the first run of the month. [illegible] Crepe Cafe will provide free coffee to runners. Sundays, 8-9:30 a.m. free.

**Climbing Mount Whitney: The [illegible]** Come find out about permits, physical training, gear and clothing, altitude sickness and weather considerations, and more for hiking Mt. Whitney. Thu., Mar. 14, 7-8:30 p.m. REI Berkeley, 1338 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-4140. REI.com.

**Dragon Boat Racing** Join the Alameda [illegible] for free introductory dragon boating sessions. Equipment provided. Meets at [illegible] Square [illegible], Alameda. Saturdays, 8:45-10:10 a.m. free. 510-521-1555. [illegible]

**East Bay [illegible] Hike** A moderately difficult [illegible] loop at Wildcat Canyon Park. Meet at the Alvarado Staging Area. Fri., Mar. 15, 10 a.m. free.

**[illegible] Lake Chabot Night Run** Weekly off-road mountain bike rides followed by pizza and beverages. Bicycle lights required. For [illegible] contact [illegible]. Tuesdays, 6:15 p.m. free. Lake Chabot Regional Park, 17600 Lake Chabot Rd., Castro Valley. 510-[illegible]. EBParks.org/Parks/Lake_Chabot.

**Fight Night** Play old school fighting video games, like *Soul Calibur* and *Street Fighter*. [illegible] tournament style [illegible] TheMADE.org for specific details. Tuesdays, [illegible] p.m. $10. The Museum of Art and Digital Entertainment, 610 16th St., Oakland. TheMADE.org.

**Hooping** With hoopdancing for [illegible] of all ages. Sundays, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. free. [illegible]Hooping.com. Jack London Square Farmer's Market, Webster and Embarcadero, Oakland.

**Pickleball** A fast-paced game combining elements of tennis, ping pong, and volleyball. For all ages and experience levels. Played on the tennis courts. Tuesdays, 6-7:30 p.m. [illegible] paddle rental. 510-[illegible] AlbanyCA.org. Ocean View Park, 900 Buchanan St., Albany.

**Pub Quiz Trivia** Sundays, 7:30 p.m. free. [illegible] 1539 Lincoln Ave., Alameda. 510-522-[illegible]. [illegible]Alameda.com.

**Take a Walk [illegible] Movement** Join GirlTrek, a national nonprofit and [illegible] to mobilize one million Black women and girls to lead a walking revolution across America, for their monthly trek. Third Saturday of every month, 8 a.m. free. Lake Merritt, 666 Bellevue Ave., Oakland.

**[illegible] Bike Run** A weekly group [illegible]. Saturdays, 8:45 a.m. free. [illegible] St., Alameda. 510-[illegible]

**Yoga for [illegible]** This [illegible] class will provide you with an introduction to basic yoga exercises, along with information on how to take yoga to the next level by incorporating [illegible]. Tue., Mar. 19, 7-8:30 p.m. free. REI Berkeley, 1338 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-4140. REI.com.

*Submissions for calendar listings should be e-mailed to Calendar@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Calendar Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA, 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.*

# MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Randy Colosky's A Hollow Gesture

## Rondy Colosky's Evolving Forms

### The sculpture-oriented artist deconstructs past works and recombines them in exciting new forms.

At *Fiat Lux*, Randy Colosky's exhibition last year at the now-closed Museum of Craft and Folk Art in San Francisco, the artist presented several impressive sculptures: "Axis Mundi" consisted of about seven hundred metal shower rods suspended from the ceiling like a 3D graphic of rain; "The McNear Attenuation" laid 2,600 custom-made bricks across the floor of the museum with their uneven sides facing up to create a jagged, perceptually engaging field. "Another Shape of Things to Come — Part 2" consisted of metallic spheres (garden ornaments, in fact) welded together in a crystalline formation.

The materials of these works now fill the space of Chandra Cerrito Contemporary for *Another Shape of Things That Happened Again*, although, as the exhibition title suggests, in different formations. The bricks of "The McNear Attenuation" now constitute "A Hollow Gesture," a circular well about four feet high and seven feet in diameter. "Axis Mundi" is now "Ghost in the Machine," an arrangement for which Colosky sawed the shower rods in half and stacked them in a cubic frame, resulting in something resembling a giant pin impression toy. The garden balls of "Another Shape of Things to Come — Part 2" are there, too, but have been sawed apart and recombined in a more molecular-looking structure, "Part 4."

This process of ongoing, transformative iteration has become a hallmark of Colosky's practice. The artist alters the topologies of his pieces almost compulsively, partly out of enthusiasm for new ideas, partly out of distaste for any gesture of finalization that would render the pieces inert. "If things get too precious to me its stalls my process and gets boring," said Colosky.

This practice obviously raises questions about the nature of the art object. Are we to consider Colosky's reconfigurations as iterations of a single, mutating work, or separate works that happen to share the same materials? And what of the artist's intention? Many of the pieces yield surprises in their de- and reconstructions that then become (temporarily) crucial in their form — for instance, the metal shavings that Colosky's sawing left within the sepia-gray tubes of "Ghost in the Machine" lend a glittering effect to what otherwise would have been a more uniformly industrial-looking piece.

Colosky shies away from such formulations altogether. Having spent much of his creative, professional life in construction and the culinary arts, outside the art world and its market-driven demand for creative signature, he instead offers a fresh perspective.

"Everything I make is part of a larger artistic drive to build upon my vocabulary. It's how I try to share with the viewer the inspiration of actually creating, as well as my ideas themselves." Moreover, Colosky said, "this happens all the time in nature — it's how the natural world works. Elements just keep rearranging themselves in the act of creation and destruction. I'm certainly not doing anything new here — just emulating a reality that already exists."

*Another Shape of Things That Happened Again* runs through March 28 at Chandra Cerrito Contemporary (480 23rd St., Oakland). 510-260-7494 or ChandraCerritoContemporary.com.

*— Alex Bigman*

## ART GALLERIES

**ACCI Gallery. "CREATIVITEA.** An exhibition of [illegible] to tea or created for the use of drinking tea. Through Apr. 7. free. 1652 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2527. ACCIGallery.com.

**Alameda Multicultural Community Center. 17th Annual Youth Art Exhibit.** The exhibit features 51 art pieces created by Encinal High School, Island High School and Wood Middle School students. Through Mar. 30. free. 1900 Third St., Alameda. 510-521-8405.

**Autobody Fine Art. "City_Line"** Urban visions by eight Bay Area artists. Through Apr. 5. free. 1511 Park St., Alameda. 510-865-2605. AutobodyFineArt.com.

**Bedford Gallery. "Impossible Kingdoms: Animals Real and Imagined"** This exhibition will explore the ways in which animals have been a presence in the visual arts as metaphors, totems, objects of fear, and sources of emotional attachment and affection through painting, photography, sculpture, and video. Through May 19. free. 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-295-1400. BedfordGallery.org.

**Berkeley Art Center. "Mentors & Devotees"** This year the exhibition features the work of mentors and mentees side by side in an exploration of mentorship and relationship. Participating Berkeley mentors include Berkeley and Magnus, Cragmont, Emerson, Jefferson, King, La Conte, Longfellow, Oxford, Malcolm X, Washington and Willard. Through Mar. 24. free. 1275 Walnut St. (in Live Oak Park), Berkeley. 510-644-6893. BerkeleyArtCenter.org.

**Berkeley Central Arts Passage. "Supra Natural"** Presenting works relating to the incommensurable character of nature from five visual artists and one writer. Through May 10. free. 2255 Milvia St., Berkeley.

**Berkeley Fam[illegible]. "Into the Gold Heart: Comets and Rainbows"** Taken during a tour of the Gold Desert in August, 2012, the exhibit includes photos of sand-swept comets, the Flaming Cliffs, and Waziri National Park. Through Mar. 31. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. free. O'Neill Room, Berkeley.

**Berkeley Public Library, Claremont Branch. "Flights of Mind"** A new art installation by artist Vica Wells. Through Mar. 31. **"Oakland Renaissance and Series"** A Alameda or Oakland-based photographers celebrate the artistry of jazz musicians in the Bay Area. Through May 11. free. 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

**Betti Ono Gallery and Shop. "Never Than Perfect"** Paintings by Jessica S. Vaugel. Celebrating International Women's Month. Through Mar. 23. free. 1421 Broadway, Oakland. 510-473-5003. BettiOno.com.

**Blackball Institute Gallery. "Critical Dis[illegible] in Folk"** This exhibit features the abstract works of [illegible], Tamo Kamiya and Ashley Adams, blending organic shapes and straight lines to explore themes of nature and of the artistry. Through Mar. 30. free. 230 Institute Dr., Oakland. [illegible].com.

**Café Gabriela. Café, [illegible] • JUBRA art show** A show featuring artwork from women artists. All the funds raised for the show will be donated to the Treasurer's DACA application fee, a policy which allows for undocumented youth to remain in the country. Through Mar. 31. free. 988 Broadway, Oakland. 510-703-2233.

**Chandra Cerrito Contemporary. "[illegible] Compounding"** A solo exhibition of work by Larry Carnagha featuring a selection of oil paintings on canvas and paper. Through Mar. 28. free. **"Another Shape of Things That Happened Again"** A solo exhibition of work by Randy Colosky who transforms ordinary objects into aesthetically powerful and witty sculptures, installations, and two-dimensional works. Through Mar. 28. free. 480 23rd St., Oakland. 510-260-7494. ChandraCerrito.com.

**Conner Contemporary. "At the Sea of [illegible], Where We Began"** A group show featuring photographers Christopher Fun, painter Isabel Nunes, and multimedia artist Deedee Haas. Thirty free. 481 24th St., Oakland. 415-000-1135. ConnerContemporary.com.

**Oakland Creative Art Center. "Convergence: San Francisco Art Institute and Creative Growth"** A special one-week-only exhibition curated by SFAI graduate students who have been involved with writing a publication about Creative Growth and its artists over the past semester. Mar. 18-22. free. 355 24th St., Oakland. 510-836-2340. CreativeGrowth.org.

**David Brower Center. "Promise and Peril**

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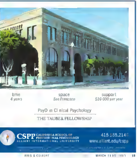

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# PICKS

Still from Suzy Poling's "Mantles and Stones."

## Elemental Forces

Suzy Poling's characterization of her work as "archaic futurism" is a tricky one. Her photography, painting, video, and sculpture-based installations in *Elemental Forces* at Krowswork rather seem to exude an altogether alien mysticism, not belonging to this world at all, past or present. The artist prominently features the earth, superimposing abstract painting upon photos of impressive geological terrain to give the scenes a fragmented, other-planetary feel. In two videos, the artist explores the earth by way of strange rituals. In one, she bathes in a shimmering body of water, sporting a peculiar headdress. In the other she covers herself in sundry forms of splattered mud and inky pigment drippings. But these videos also read as an exploration of the ritualistic qualities of the film- and video-capture process itself: a point of fascination that, if now latent in the mainstream, was certainly explicit in the early days of the moving image. Perhaps that points to the archaic that Poling is channeling here. *Elemental Forces* runs through March 30 at Krowswork (480 23rd St., Oakland). 510-229-7535 or Krowswork.com. — *Alex Bigman*

**"A Study in Biodiversity"** Featured artists Doreen Kalland and Jeffrey Long employ different techniques, but converge in their commitment to capturing elements of nature in order to shed light on the ecological challenges we face. Through May 3. Free. 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-809-1500. BrowerCenter.org.

**Doe Library. "David Brower: Elements & Forces for Nature"** An exhibit [illegible] of the modern environmental movement. Mondays-Fridays; Sundays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Continues through Mar. 31. Free. UC Berkeley campus, Berkeley. 510-643-6130.

**Doug Adams Gallery. "Twin Bandits"** This solo exhibition features the intricate ink paintings of Bay Area artist Pamela Lomax. Through May 24. Free. 1798 Scenic Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-2435. Cart.GTU.org/Doug_Adams_Gallery.php.

**Expressions Gallery. "Love, Unity, and Freedom"** A show of art and poetry. Through Mar. 15. Free. 2035 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-644-4930. ExpressionsGallery.org.

**Firehouse North. "Aspiring protest Showcase"** An exhibit featuring 50 paintings and photographs by 20 Hillcrest High juniors and seniors. Through Mar. 31. Free. 1790 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. FirehouseArtCollective.blogspot.com.

**FM. "Destination: 11/2013"** Works by David Yamaguta. Through Mar. 30. Free. 483 25th St., Oakland. FMOakland.com.

**Frank Bette Center. "The Things We Lost"** Photos in tribute to Newtown by Anne Kohler. Through Mar. 30. Free. **"Let Them Eat Cake"** An exhibit loosely themed on depictions of food, fashion, and [illegible]. Through Mar. 30. Free. 1601 Paru St., Alameda. 510-523-6957. FrankBetteCenter.org.

**Gray Loft Gallery. "Layers of Abstraction"** Features large scale paintings by eight established Bay Area artists. Through May 10. Free. 2889 Ford St., Oakland. 510-499-3415. GrayLoftGallery.blogspot.com.

**The Hive Gallery. "Bravado"** Work by Janet Amen, Ruth M. Fenerhan, [illegible], Faith Sanchez Brosnik. Through Mar. 31. Free. 301 Jefferson St., Oakland. 805-212-8728. HiveStudios.org.

**ISSUES. "Tear It Out"** A group art show based on the theme of magazines. Opening paintings, collages, paintings, sculptures, writing, and publications. Curator Serena Cole has gathered this talented group of artists from the Bay Area, Los Angeles, and New York. Through Apr. 2. Free. 20 Glen Ave., Oakland. 510-817-9700. IssuesShop.com.

**[illegible] Gallery. "[illegible]"** An exhibit exploring a feminist studies of Western art history. Opening reception on Mar. 13, 6-9pm. Through Apr. 18. Free. 2059 Center St., Berkeley. 510-981-2800. BCCArtsCouncil.com.

**Johansson Projects. "Mutated Drift"** Featuring work by David R. Brian, Andrew Damson, and Tomomi Abrams. Through Mar. 16. Mar. 2300 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-9140. JohanssonProjects.com.

**Julie's Coffee @ The Greens. "Living Within the Layers"** Alameda-based artist Julie Stevenson uses the format of the page of written word to "follow the contours of her inner world." Through May 3. Free. 1223 Park St., Alameda. 510-865-2889. JuliesTea.com.

**Kala Art Institute Gallery. "Actual Scale"** A group exhibition that explores visual dimensions and shifting shifts in scale. Through Mar. 30. **"ENGAGE & PERSIST"** A collection of work by Berkeley High Arts and Humanities Academy students, with artwork from advanced students in drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture and ceramics. Through Mar. 19. Free. **"From Picture at Home"** A performance by Chris Fraser, a Bay Area artist. [illegible] installations and performances approach a direct experience of our optical environment. Wed., Mar. 20, 7-8 p.m. Free. 2990 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-7000. Kala.org.

**Krowswork. "Elemental Forces"** A solo exhibition by Suzy Poling. Includes video, photography collage, sound sculpture, installation, painting, and performance. Through Mar. 30. Free. 480 23rd St., Oakland. 510-229-7535. Krowswork.com.

**La Peña Cultural Center. "Visions"** An exhibit of works by artist Erika Gagnon. Opening reception Saturday, March 2, 6-9pm. Through Mar. 31. Free. **"Women are Perfect"** An art exhibit by [illegible] with a live performance by [illegible]. Sun., Mar. 17, 8 p.m. $10. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

**MAKE. "Last When"** A solo show by Bay Area street art collective [illegible]. Through Mar. 31. Free. **"Last When"** A solo show by Bay Area street art collective [illegible]. Through Mar. 31. Free. 550 24th St., Oakland.

**Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life. "Sound Objects"** This exhibit investigates the role of rhyme and musical sound in synagogue rituals, using over sixty objects, books, manuscripts, and photographs. Through June 28. **"Through the Eyes of [illegible]"** A fragmented narrative about a beloved Czech Jew, Rachel Marker. A literary installation by [illegible]. Sundays-Fridays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Continues through June 28. Mar. 2121 Allston Way. Opening. 510-643-2526. Magnes.org.

**[illegible] Gallery. "Indoors"** [illegible] transforms the gallery into a hanging garden of recycled maple shavings. Through Mar. 30. Free. 473 25th St., Oakland. 510-701-2335. MannaGallery.com.

**Mercury 20 Gallery. "PET PEEVES"** In this show of paintings and installations, Julie Alvarado and Charlie Milgrim interpret the theme "Pet Peeves." Opening reception on Thursday, Feb. 28, 6-9pm, artists talk on Saturday, Mar. 16th, 4pm. Through Apr. 6. Mar. **"LUCKY"** New sculptures by Dave [illegible] interplay with [illegible]. Opening reception on Thursday, Feb. 28, 6-9pm. Artist's talk on Saturday, Mar. 16th, 4pm. Through Apr. 6. Mar. 475 25th St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]-7786. Mercurytwenty.com.

**Mythos Fine Art & Artifacts. "Rarely Invisible and Within Reason"** [illegible] and Robert Duncan will present a new collection of paintings and oil paper paintings. Through Mar. 24. 930 Dwight Way #11, Berkeley. 510-528-4091. MythosFineArt.com.

**[illegible] Art presents "A Light That Never Goes Out"** A 10-week group show looking back at important art historic moments, as well as engaging with tradition. Opening reception Saturday, Mar. 16, 12:30-3pm. Mar. 10-26. Free. **"Spring Training"** A group show of works on paper about sports. [illegible] by Ann Meade, [illegible] McCann, Mister Eight, Saul Alegria, Brooks Colbert, John Sell, and Paolo Pardo. Opening reception Saturday, Mar. 16, 12:30-3pm. Mar. 15-Apr. 26, and **The Superduperstrained Craft Pop Up Shop** Featuring unique objects and works from [illegible], Jennifer Lane, Katie McCann, [illegible], [illegible] Robertson, [illegible] Monkey Press, and others. Mar. 15-Apr. 26. Free. 558 23rd St., Richmond. 510-830-0290. [illegible]Art.org.

**North Gate Hall. "Invisible City"** An ongoing exhibit from acclaimed photographer Ken Schles. Opening reception featuring the photographer on March 8, 6-6:30pm. Through Apr. 30. Free. UC Berkeley, Berkeley.

**Oak Common. "Heartflesh"** In her solo exhibition Heartflesh, Invisible Helenae presents a body of works that depict [illegible] using tracing paper and vinyl collage techniques. Through Apr. 10. Free. 3811 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-285-0829. OakCommon.com.

**Oakland Public Library Lakeview Branch. "[illegible]"** Features [illegible] handpainted [illegible] of the artists, authors, and other [illegible], citizens who are no longer with us. Through Mar. 29. Free. 550 El Embarcadero, Oakland. 510-238-7344. OaklandLibrary.org.

**[illegible] Creativity [illegible]. "[illegible]"** An exhibit dealing with the dualism of body and soul, intellect and emotion, and between [illegible] and movement. Artists reception Friday, Feb. 28, 6-9pm. Through Mar. 16. Free. 447 25th St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible].org.

**Pacific Pinball Museum. "The Art of Pinball Cont."** [illegible] works from the new artist. Through Mar. 14. Free. 1510 Webster St., Alameda. 510-769-1349. PacificPinball.org.

**[illegible] Stationery. Jack Anderson** New works from the local watercolor artist.

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Through May 14. free. 1793 Solano Ave., Berkeley. 510-526-3050, [illegible].com.

**PHOTO. "Vintage Esoterica"** A students of vintage 20th-century photography. Mar. 15-Apr. 27. free. 473 25th St., Oakland. 510-407-0443, PHOTOGalleryOakland.com.

**Pro Arts Gallery, The Free Gallery** Pro Arts Oakland The Free Gallery by Free Election Projects, a new exhibition of free artwork, found objects, and an ephemera. Through Mar. 29. 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland. 510-763-4361, ProArtsGallery.org.

**Blue Door Gallery: "Broadband"** New work by Nicholas Weber exploring fine art representations of graphic sensibility. Through Mar. 16. free. 455 25th St., Oakland, [illegible]Gallery.com.

**Rhythmix Cultural Works.** Nurture/Nature Emily Pothast, Jacqueline Cooper, and Stephen Kenyon exhibit their paintings and sculpture inspired by the natural world. Exhibit reception March 6, 2-5pm. Through Apr. 30. free. 2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda, 510-865-5060, Rhythmix.org.

**Rock Paper Scissors Collective. "I Bet Amanti"** A new photography exhibit at the gallery. Through Mar. 31. free. 2278 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-238-9171, RPSCollective.com.

**Rosse Ceramic Gallery, Savannah Israel** New ceramic works from the artist. Through Mar. 30. free. 473 25th St., Oakland.

**Royal NoneSuch Gallery.** [illegible] exhibition and screening that brings together work by [illegible] series and the Berlin-based feminist collaborative // [illegible]. Screening on Friday, Mar. 22, at 8pm. Through Apr. 14. free. 4231 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 415-000-3841, RoyalNonesuchGallery.com.

**SLATE contemporary. "Year in Wool / Marsh Cycles"** New work from Carol Ladewig. Featuring two large-scale [illegible] installations. Through Mar. 23. free. 473 25th St., Oakland. 510-355-0808, SlateArtGallery.com.

**More Listings Online**

Get info about dozens more art events at EastBayExpress.com

**SamePlace. "Vessel Author"** The exhibit celebrates 10 years of series community-based [illegible] by Design Action Collective. Through Mar. 31. free. 1715 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, Facebook.com/SamePlace.

**Studio Quercus, Joanne Venezi** Studio's recent series of paintings, oil on [illegible], elevates the symbolic imagery of disfigured and forgotten doll's [illegible]. Artist's reception on Saturday, March 9, 4-6pm. Through Apr. 26. free. 385 26th St., Oakland. 510-452-4670, StudioQuercus.com.

**Swarm Gallery. "Thank You For your Waiting"** A solo exhibition by [illegible]. Through Apr. 28. free. **"Sedimental Patterns"** An installation by [illegible]. Through Apr. 21. free. 560 2nd St., Oakland, 510.839.2787, SwarmGallery.com.

**Rossen Hall. "At the Edges"** The [illegible] in the exhibit, taken at the [illegible] Village [illegible], [illegible] on Mare Island, were taken where land and water intersect. Through Mar. 30. UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-[illegible], Berkeley.edu.

**University of California Botanical Garden** [illegible] is the Garden's first artist-in-residence, and this exhibit will feature the beautiful [illegible] and landscapes of her Garden portfolio. Through Mar. 15. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. free with garden admission. 200 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-643-2755, BotanicalGarden.Berkeley.edu.

**Uptown Art Murmur, Saturday Stroll** A weekly companion to Art Murmur but with fewer festivities and more focus on the Oakland [illegible]. Visit OaklandArtMurmur.org for a full list of participating [illegible]. Saturdays, 1-5 p.m. 19th St. at Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

**Vessel Gallery. "Absence"** New sculptural [illegible] by [illegible]. Opening reception Feb. 28, 6:30-8pm. Artist's talk on March 2, 2-3:30pm. Through Apr. 13. 471 25th St., Oakland.

**Warehouse 416. "A Dangerously [illegible]"** Photography by [illegible] from 1972-1982 San Francisco. Artist's talk on Saturday, Mar. 30, 1-5pm. Through Mar. 30. free. 416 26th St., Oakland. 510-922-1853, Warehouse416.com.

**Worth Ryder Gallery.** [illegible] exhibition of [illegible]'s drawings, paintings and works on paper dating from 19[illegible]-2011. Reception Saturday March 2, 1-4 p.m. Through Mar. 23. free. **"Oakland Beyond: The European [illegible]"** Oakland photographs from the public and photojournalist's investigation of the growth of European Pentecostalism led by immigrants from Former European [illegible] Oakland. Through Mar. 23. free. **"FIAT LUX, FIAT LUXURY, FIAT FUTURE?"** [illegible] a student driven vision for the future of the University of California. For this interactive exhibition, the 17 students in the fall 2012 Fiat Lux class taught by [illegible] will present their vision for the future. Opening reception Wednesday, Feb. 13, 4-7pm. Through Mar. 23. free. 116 Kroeber Hall, Berkeley. 510-642-2582.

**Wurster Hall. "Infrastructure: [illegible] Reconciled"** Infrastructure [illegible] sketches, structures, models and facilities exhibition for society in [illegible] is part of the landscape. This exhibit [illegible] original sketches, photographs, drawings, and [illegible] by the Environmental Design students. Through Apr. 26. free. UC Berkeley, Berkeley.

# MUSEUMS

**BAM/PFA. "Himalayan Pilgrimage: Journey to the Land of Snows"** [illegible] and [illegible] from 1 feet. Through [illegible] 31. **"Apichatpong Weerasethakul / MATRIX 247"** A video exhibit, part of the MATRIX 242 series. Through Apr. 21. free with museum admission. **"Anna Halprin / MATRIX 246"** "MATRIX 246" [illegible] the [illegible] performances of "Parades and Changes," and [illegible] photographs, and [illegible] documentation of the history of the dance. Through Apr. 21. **"Alfred Hitchcock: The Shape of Suspense"** An ongoing exhibit of some of Alfred Hitchcock's films famous and lesser known films produced throughout the 40s and 50s. Through Apr. 21. **"Documentary Voices"** "Documentary Voices" is presented in conjunction with the UC Berkeley course "History of Documentary Film," taught by Linda Williams during the spring semester. Through Apr. 7. **"Werner Schroeter: Magnificent Obsessions"** Schroeter's nonfiction films are free ranging explorations of philosophy and culture, while his later films moved toward art cinema, weaving more complex, dark narratives, while also striving to draw on [illegible] of low culture. Through Apr. 7. **"Facing Two Directions: A Japanese Painter [illegible] in Exile"** The art of 17th century artist [illegible], who was influenced by both Chinese art and Japanese [illegible] painting. Wednesdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Continues through Mar. 24. $10. **The Reading Room** Stop by the Reading Room during gallery hours to enjoy a [illegible] reading area. Listen to recordings of [illegible] poems and view silk-screen posts and original works on paper created by [illegible] Schneeman in [illegible] with poets Ron Padgett, Ted Berrigan, and Lewis MacAdams. Wednesdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Continues through Mar. 17. free. **"Silence"** Inspired by John Cage's groundbreaking 1952 musical composition 4'33" and the 100th anniversary of the composer's birth, "Silence" examines the absence of sound as both subject and medium in modern and contemporary art and film. Wednesdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Continues through Apr. 28. $10. **"Rudolf de Crignis / MATRIX 245"** MATRIX 245, [illegible] de Crignis's first solo museum exhibition in the United States, brings [illegible] paintings and a [illegible] of graphic works on paper from 1991 to 2006. Wednesdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Continues through May 5. $10. **"Himalayan Pilgrimage: Sacred Space"** The third and final rotation of Himalayan Pilgrimage explores the theme of Sacred Space with a pair of large mandala paintings and depictions of historic Tibetan teachers. Wednesdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Continues through May 26. $10, free for UC Berkeley students. 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-642-0808, BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu.

**Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life, Berkeley Lab** An active installation [illegible] create digital family albums and exhibitions [illegible] on the [illegible] documents, photographs, and memories. Daily. [illegible] the European [illegible] cultural [illegible]. Through Mar. 17. **"Oakland Jewish History 101. The Art Files"** An exhibit of paintings and sculptures by prominent artists illustrating key historical moments in Jewish life, from the [illegible] in Hawaii in the late 19th and early 20th centuries to emigration and the [illegible]. In the [illegible] Gallery. Through May 31. **"Jewish History 102"** A panorama of Jewish life in the 20th century as told through images from the [illegible] and art collection at The Magnes. Through June 28. **Projections** Multimedia works from the museum's extensive collections of archival documentary and experimental films. Daily. 2121 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-643-2526, Magnes.org.

**Mills College Art Museum.** "Offerings" A rare opportunity to experience two of the Oakland-based artist's most significant installations: [illegible] (1998) and [illegible] (2008). Through Mar. 17. free. **"Hung Liu: [illegible]"** [illegible] that explore the ongoing tension [illegible]. Through Mar. 12. 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-430-2164, MCAM.Mills.edu.

**Oakland Museum of California** "we/customize" An exhibit exploring the many expressions and forms of auto customization. Part of the Oakland "we/customize" program at the museum. Through June 26. **"Suburban Oakland"** A new exhibit of 20 large-scale color photographs by Beth Yarnelle Edwards [illegible] on the suburbs of Silicon Valley in 1992. Wednesdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Continues through June 30. $12. **Playing With Fire** Celebrating the 50-year anniversary of the studio glass movement, works from over twenty esteemed California artists. Wednesdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Continues through June 24. $12. **What's Happening, Sacramento?** Led by OMCA curators and Sacramento State History Professor Lee Simpson, students [illegible] community perspectives on how important the Sacramento and American Rivers are to their region. Wednesdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Continues through Mar. 24. free with museum admission. **"Conversations: [illegible] Morgan"** Meet Julia Morgan as portrayed by Betty Marvin, a [illegible] and preservation planner with the City of Oakland's Cultural Heritage Survey [illegible]. Thu. Mar. 14, 1:30-2:30 p.m. free with museum admission. **"Conservator-in-Residence Open Studio Series"** Watch the process of expert conservators and [illegible] in transforming objects with [illegible], [illegible] and more as part of the "we/customize" [illegible] Conservator-in-Residence. March Fri. Mar. 15, 5-8 p.m. Sat., [illegible] 1-4 p.m. Sun. [illegible] 1-4 p.m. free with museum admission. **"Summoning Ghosts: The Art of Hung Liu"** The first ever retrospective of Hung Liu, one of the most significant Chinese contemporary artists working today. Mar. 16-June 30. 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-318-8400, MuseumCA.org.

**Pacific Pinball Museum. Historic Pinball Exhibit** With 85 woodrails and 29 [illegible] from Larry Zartarian's collection, plus games representing early products from the [illegible] of Mr. and Mrs. [illegible] Haase, [illegible] and Michael Schiess. Daily. $15. [illegible] 1510 Webster St., Alameda. 510-769-1349, PacificPinball.org.

**Peralta Hacienda Historical Park. "What I Know" Voices from Oakland's [illegible]** This visual and audio art exhibition is based on African American stories of [illegible] Oakland [illegible] from the personal experiences of local [illegible]. Wednesdays-Saturdays. 2465 34th Ave., Oakland. 510-532-9142, PeraltaHacienda.org.

**USS Hornet Museum. "Nisei Soldiers"** Photos and memorabilia telling the story of the Nisei (second-generation Japanese-American) troops who fought for the US in WWII. Daily. 707 W. Hornet Ave., Alameda. 510-521-8448, USS-Hornet.org.

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# THEATER & DANCE

## COMEDY

**Comedy Open Mic** Sign-ups at 5 p.m. Each comic gets 3-5 minutes, with up to a $100 cash prize for winner. First and third Tuesday of every month, 7 p.m. $5. Tommy T's Comedy Steakhouse, 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. 925-227-1800. TommyTs.com.

**The Last Laugh** With Samson Koletkar and various comics. Fridays, Saturdays, 10:30 p.m. $8-$10. The Last Laugh at the Pan Theater, 3135 Broadway, Oakland. 415-200-8848. PanTheater.com.

**Laugh of Play** Antoinette hosts local stand-up comics, with music by DJ Yaddies and food and drink specials. Fourth and second Thursday of every month, 8-11 p.m. $10. Club Bread, 420 3rd St., Oakland.

**Layover Comedy** Mike Spiegelman hosts around a half dozen Bay Area comedians. Food available from Phatamburger food truck. Tuesdays, 8:30-10 p.m. Free. The Layover, 1517 Franklin St., Oakland. 510-834-1517. OaklandLayover.com.

**A Night of Two Comic Operas** The Mendocino Chamber Opera will present two comic operas: "Out of the Window" by Seymour Barab and "The Telephone" by Gian-Carlo Menotti, both of which will be sung in English. Sat., Mar. 16, 8 p.m. $20, $10 for students. Piedmont Center for the Arts, 801 Magnolia Ave., Oakland. PiedmontCenterforTheArts.org.

**Oakland Comedy Show and Open-Mic** Hosted by Nandeh and Dallas Alston, with DJ M. G. Second Thursday of every month, 8 p.m. $8-$10. Club Bench, 130 12th St., Oakland. 510-763-0184.

**Open Mic Comedy** A weekly open mic for both veteran and up-and-coming comedians. Sundays, 8 p.m., one-drink minimum. Continental Club, 1658 12th St., Oakland. 510-835-5813, ContinentalComedy.com.

**The Night Comedy Tour** Live comedians Yoshiro Sommers, Brent Bums, Mark Curry, and Tony Rock. Sat., Mar. 16, 8 p.m. $41.50-$101. Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland. ParamountTheatre.com.

**Stork Club Comedy** Open mic comedy night hosted by PJ Patterson. Sign-ups at 6, Thursdays, 6:30-8 p.m. Free. Stork Club, 2330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-6184. StorkClubOakland.com.

**Sunday Night Comedy and Poetry** Hosted by Lefley Stanfield I. Ages 21 and up. Sundays, 8 p.m. ComedyProductions.com. *[illegible]* Paradise Club, 1436 Webster St., Alameda. 510-865-3225. [illegible]ParadiseClub.com.

**The [illegible] Story** With weekly improv comedy. Additional show previews begin at 8 p.m. Saturdays. 8 p.m. $10-$12. Pan Theater, 2135 Broadway, Oakland. 510-[illegible]. PanTheater.com.

**Wednesday Stretch Comedy Happy Hour** Anything but stand up. Produced by Mike Spiegelman. Wednesdays, 6-7:30 p.m. Free. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-704-8291. TheMarsh.org.

## DANCE PERFORMANCE

**EAST COAST BOUNT: Performance Benefit** Featuring live dance performances by Rahlan and Delaney and a dance for camera screening. Sat., Mar. 16, 8-10 p.m. Free. Temescal Art Center, 511 48th St., Oakland. 510-923-3014. TemescalArtCenter.org.

**Founding** The Mills College Art Museum has commissioned Mills College dance professor and internationally recognized choreographer Molissa Fenley to create a new work responding to the artwork in Hung Liu: Offerings. Sat., Mar. 16, 1 & 2 p.m., Sun., Mar. 17, 4 & 7 p.m. Free. Mills College Art Museum, 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-430-2164. MCAM.Mills.edu.

## LIVE VARIETY

**Rebel Kings** A drag show featuring Vegas Blue, Randy Pooh, Stevie Boy, Mickey Fire, Papa Pea, Kevin Logan Cumeth, and more. Showcases by dancing and DJs. Third and first Wednesday of every month, 9 p.m. $7. White Horse Inn, 6551 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-652-3820. WhiteHorseBar.com.

## THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

**As You Like It** Impact Theatre presents *As You Like It* by William Shakespeare, directed by Melissa Hillman. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Mar. 30. $10-$25. Impact Bay Area, 140 East 12th St., Oakland. 510-208-5474. ImpactBayArea.org.

**Berkeley Rep School of Theatre Spring Sampler** The school has 47 exciting classes for people of all ages, from beginners to seasoned performers, and everyone is invited to preview the spring fare. Sun., Mar. 17, 1-5 p.m. Free. Berkeley Rep School of Theatre, 2101 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-647-2972. BerkeleyRep.org/School.

**Dostoevsky's The Grand Inquisitor** Central Works presents *The Grand Inquisitor* by Fyodor Dostoevsky as adapted by Gary Graves. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Sundays, 5 p.m. Continues through Mar. 31. $14-$28. Thursdays are pay-what-you-can. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. 510-558-1381. BerkeleyCityClub.com.

**Fallaci** A fictional play about the last days of Italian journalist Oriana Fallaci by Pulitzer Prize-winner Lawrence Wright. Sundays, 2 & 7 p.m., Saturdays, 2 & 8 p.m., Thursdays, Fridays, 8 p.m. Wednesdays, 7 p.m., Tuesdays, 8 p.m. Through Apr. 21. $29-$89. Roda Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-647-2949. BerkeleyRep.org.

**The Mahabharata** A re-telling of the Indian epic poem by Jean-Claude Carrière. Sat., Mar. 16, 5-8 p.m. $10-$15. International House, 2299 Piedmont Ave., Berkeley. 510-642-9490.

**The Real Americans** Directed by Charlie Varon, the show connects two worlds that usually pull us far apart, the liberal, achingly-hip mental-relativism of gentrified city life and the conservative obsession, and all of the beliefs populating of small-town America. Saturdays, 5 p.m., Fridays, 8 p.m. Continues through Apr. 7. $25-$50. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-704-8291. TheMarsh.org.

**RENT** Jonathan Larson's modern retelling of La Bohème. Saturdays and 15, Sundays, 2 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Apr. 21. $24. Altarena Playhouse, 1409 High St., Alameda. 510-523-1553. Altarena.org.

**The Ruling Class** Peter Barnes' 1968 black comedy brilliantly parodies and pierces today's class, all class, and partisan politics. Fri., Mar. 15, 8 p.m. Sat., Mar. 16, 8 p.m. Sun., Mar. 17, 2 p.m. $35-$49. Zellerbach Playhouse, 2430 Bancroft Ave., Berkeley. 510-642-9988. CalPerfs.Berkeley.edu.

**Steve Seabrook: Better Than You** Kurt Bodden presents his satire of the motivational speaker market by impersonating "master motivator" Steve Seabrook. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Mar. 23. $12-$50. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-704-8291. TheMarsh.org.

**Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead** A student production that asks, "What would happen if Charlie Brown and the rest of the Peanuts Gang grew up?" Fri., Mar. 15, 8 p.m. Sat., Mar. 16, 8 p.m. Sun., Mar. 17, 5 p.m. $8-$12. Choral Rehearsal Hall, 20 Cesar Chavez Student Center, Berkeley. 510-643-1341. ●

## PICK

### Trisha Brown Dance Company

Lauren Phepps

Pioneering postmodern choreographer Trisha Brown helped to shape dance by incorporating ordinary movement, and was the first woman to receive a MacArthur genius grant. Brown will retire in 2013 after a fifty-year career, but thanks to Cal Performances there's one more chance to see her marvelous company perform under her direction. The spacious stage of Zellerbach Hall (Bancroft Way at Dana St., Berkeley) offers ample room for these and her more expansive pieces, including the athletic *Newark* (*Niweweorce*), a 1987 piece with sound by Peter Zummo and a dynamic set by the late sculptor Donald Judd. Also featured are her final two creations: *Les Yeux et l'âme*, a suite of dances from Brown's 2010 opera *Pygmalion*, with music by Rameau and *I'm going to toss my arms — if you catch them they're yours* (named for a comment Brown made while choreographing it), set to a piano and electronic soundtrack by former Mills College music professor Alvin Curran. 8 p.m., $30-$68. 510-642-9988 or CalPerformances.org. *— Claudia Bauer*

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# LECTURES & LIT

## Poetry in Motion

Even if you don't like graphic novels, you'll like Thien Pham's new one.

Thien Pham is what you might call a big personality. In a 2011 *Express* write-up of the artist, Oaklander, and graphic novelist's last book, *Level Up*, Luke Tsai described him as an "outsized personality," the smack talker, the maker of outrageous statements." Pham's speech is loose, expressive, and uncommonly fast, his words occasionally stumbling over each other as they exit his mouth. Even his drawings, which are rendered in thick lines, graphic shapes, and bright colors, impart a sort of existential bigness. And when, during our phone interview, I told him I'd just finished his most recent graphic novel, *Sumo*, which he'll present on Monday, March 18 at Books Inc. (1760 Fourth St., Berkeley), he responded, quickly and with no apparent self-deprecation: "wasn't it great?"

Thien Pham Sarah Deweerdt

And it was, though not necessarily in the way you might think. *Sumo*'s plot centers around Scott, a failed football player who, having recently been dumped by his girlfriend and rejected by his chosen sport, decides to move to Japan to train as a sumo wrestler. Which, especially when combined with the graphic-novel format, sounds like the setup for some kind of broad action comic full of exclamation-pointed onomatopoeia and cinematic fight scenes. But according to Pham — who came up with the idea after a dream, never having seen sumo live before — sumo is "actually this really beautiful, traditional, graceful, slow sport," and without giving too much away, the story he weaves with it has much more in common with graceful and slow than it does with whatever the literary equivalent of huge guys banging into each other is.

That's rare for a medium like this, a medium that doesn't have the benefit — or crutch — of, say, a first-person narrator or an omniscient point of view. Everything Scott's seeing, feeling, and thinking needs to be conveyed externally, either via images or dialogue (Pham doesn't even use thought bubbles) — which is challenging for the reader as well as the writer. The literary graphic novel is still a relatively new concept in this country, and as a result, Pham said, many people still don't fully know how to relate to the form. We tend to think of them either as dressed-up comic books — big, movie-style set pieces with lots of action and little introspection — or as picture books for adults, where the art simply parrots the text. But both conceptions do a disservice to the form, Pham said, at least in the case of *Sumo*. "It's not just the words narrating the pictures and the pictures illustrating the words," he said. "What lighting I chose to use, or what angle I drew a scene from, or the transitions — that tells a big story."

And in fact, the novel is at its best when there aren't any words on the page at all and those stark, graphic images crystallize into moments that reveal much more than prose ever could: a would-be couple eating together for the first time; a freshly caught fish flapping out of water; a group of longtime friends sitting together in silence at a bar, one of them staring down the barrel of a potentially disastrous decision. For all its initial, external hugeness, *Sumo* is, in the end, surprisingly delicate and sweetly, gently, gracefully nuanced — kind of like a sumo wrestler, or a big personality. *7 p.m., free. BooksInc.net*

*— Ellen Cushing*

# LECTURES

**Bonus Climate Talk** Join Dr. A. Paul Alivisatos, Director of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, for a lecture focused on current climate change issues and Berkeley solutions. Wed., Mar. 20, 7-8 p.m., free. Lawrence Hall of Science, 1 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-642-5132. LawrenceHallofScience.org.

**Climate Immersion: An Ecology Center Series** A three-session talk series penetrates the many layers of climate solutions, from urban farms to personal action plans. Tue., Mar. 19, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Sun., Mar. 24, 2-5 p.m.; Sat., Mar. 30, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Ecology Center, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-2220. EcologyCenter.org.

**"The Future of Brower Water"** A cross-disciplinary set of panelists from academia and industry will shed light on current and challenges facing the future of urban water systems as well as address systems levels involved in urban water renewal. Fri., Mar. 15, 12-1 p.m., $5-$30. David Brower Center, 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-809-0900. BrowerCenter.org.

**[illegible] Up Close"** Pam Belluck will speak about her first book, *Island Practice*, the adventures of an eccentric doctor and the challenges of his community on the island of Nantucket. Wed., Mar. 20, 4 p.m., free. Stanley Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley.

**INFUSION Lunch Series** Featuring Ekso Bionics, an Oakland tech company that creates battery-powered exoskeletons for mobility, such as lower-extremity paralysis, and capability, such as enabling humans to carry more weight. Wed., Mar. 20, 12-1:30 p.m. [illegible] $15. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-647-2949. BerkeleyRep.org.

**"Learning [illegible] Frontiers in Higher Education"** This two-day symposium at UC Berkeley brings together panelists, educational media developers, students, and employers to explore and discuss critical issues in online higher education. Fri., Mar. 15, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.; Sat., Mar. 16, 9:45 a.m.-5:30 p.m., free. Banatao Auditorium, Sutardja Dai Hall, Berkeley.

**"The New Abolitionism: Challenging U.S. Deportation Practices"** Featuring Dr. Jacqueline Stevens, a political science professor from Northwestern University. Part of the I-House Speakers Series. Thu., Mar. 14, 7:30-9 p.m., free. International House, 2299 Piedmont Ave., Berkeley. 510-642-9490.

**Regents' Lecture: Shirin Neshat** New York-based artist Shirin Neshat has received Muslim critical acclaim for her photographs, video installations, and films addressing the identities of Muslim women worldwide. Tue., Mar. 19, 6:30 p.m., free. BAM/PFA, 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-642-0808. BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu.

**Robert Duncan and Harry Jacobus** A panel discussion celebrating legendary poet Robert Duncan and one of the great painters of his circle, Harry Jacobus. Featured panelists will be David Young Allen, Reginald Burton, Kevin Killian and Brenda Hillman. Sun., Mar. 17, 2 p.m., free. Mythos Fine Art & Artifacts, 930 Dwight Way #19, Berkeley. 510-528-0231. MythosFineArt.com.

**"The Slumdog Phenomenon"** Exploring the "Slumdog phenomenon," the controversies the film has generated, and the effects the film has had on Indian cinemas and Western perceptions of India. Thu., Mar. 14, 5:30-7:30 p.m., free. Center for South Asia Studies, 10 Stephens Hall, Berkeley. 510-642-3608.

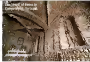
# LITERARY EVENTS

**Alan Schroeder** Presenting his book, *Baby Flo: Florence Mills Lights Up the Stage*. Thu., Mar. 14, 6 p.m., free. Alameda Free Library, 1550 Oak St., Alameda. 510-747-7777. CityofAlamedaCA.gov/Library.

**Amy Stewart** Presenting her new book, *The Drunken Botanist: The Plants that Create the World's Great Drinks*. Sun., Mar. 17, 4 p.m., free. Mrs. Dalloway's, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

**Art Boat Writers' Society** Writer Cid Combs leads a weekly writing and performance workshop designed to generate new material and create a sustainable community of Bay Area writers. Mondays, 7-8:30 p.m. [illegible] The 25th Street Collective, 477 25th St., Oakland. 510-384-3146. 25thStreetCollective.com.

# PICKS



Paul Koudounaris

## Paul Koudounaris

The Malagasy people of Madagascar have a death ritual that Paul Koudounaris presents in stark contrast to our own. They remove their ancestors from their crypts, wrap them in new shrouds, and then lead the corpse in a dance to live music or have it join them at the table for a family meal. The history of human death rituals is Koudounaris' specialty. His 2011 book *The Empire of Death* documents ossuaries and charnel houses that are intricately decorated with human bones, revealing shifting attitudes toward mortality. Join the author at The Bone Room (1569 Solano Ave., Berkeley) on Thursday, Mar. 14, for a lecture and photo presentation entitled "Sex Ghosts of the Palermo Catacombs," chronicling the mythology of mummified ghosts in Sicily. Though the topic may seem bizarre, Koudounaris insists that understanding humanity's sundry conceptions of death can bring to light the idea that our contemporary practices are, in fact, perhaps no less peculiar. 7 p.m., free. BoneRoomPresents.com — *Azeen Ghorayshi*

## Amy Stewart

Humans have pretty much always liked getting drunk. And over the centuries, ingenious souls have tested the limits of trial and error to retrieve clever new sources for a booze: sake from rice, scotch from barley, tequila from agave, rum from sugarcane, and bourbon from corn, to name a few. Join Amy Stewart on Sunday, Mar. 17, at Mrs. Dalloway's (2904 College Ave., Berkeley) as she discusses her new book, *The Drunken Botanist*, a catalog of the herbs, flowers, trees, fruits, and fungi that humans have endeavored to ferment and distill — successfully and less so — over the years. In addition to the house-to-glass history, Stewart's book presents more than fifty drink recipes and gardening tips for aspiring drunken home botanists. And those worried about their thirst levels need not fear: The reading, appropriately staged on St. Patrick's Day, will also feature cocktail tastings from the book. 4 p.m., free. MrsDalloways.com — *A.G.*

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**"The Berkeley Barb and Gender Revolution"** [illegible] Stephens, for an examination of the Gender Revolution through the lens of the rebellious and notorious newspaper *The Berkeley Barb*. Sat., Mar. 16, 2-4 p.m., free. Berkeley Public Library Central Branch, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley, 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

**California [illegible] Club Meeting** Featuring Angie Chau, prize-winning author of short story collection *Quiet As They Come*, capturing the immigrant experience of the Vietnamese in America. Sun., Mar. 17, 2-4:30 p.m., free. Oakland Main Library, Main Branch, 125 14th St., Oakland, 510-238-3134. OaklandLibrary.org.

**Cara Black** Reading from her new Parisian mystery, *Murder Below Montparnasse*. Fri., Mar. 15, 7:30 p.m., free. Mrs. Dalloway's, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

**The Outsider: New Vietnamese Poetry** In his final public lecture, Linh Dinh will recreate his translations of contemporary Vietnamese poetry and literature. In room 3335. Thu., Mar. 14, 4-5:30 p.m., free. Dwinelle Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. Berkeley.edu.

**Elizabeth Whaley** Presenting her book, *Sustenance: Food Traditions in Italy's Heartland*, followed by a special Etruscan dinner at Oliveto. Call 510-547-5356 for reservations. Mon., Mar. 18, 5 p.m., free. Mrs. Dalloway's, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

**Ernest Freeberg** Presenting his new book, *The Age of Edison*. Thu., Mar. 14, 7 p.m., free. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-525-7777. BooksInc.net/Berkeley.

**Greil Marcus** Discussing his 1979 classic, *Stranded: Rock and Roll for a Desert Island*. Thu., Mar. 14, 8 p.m., free. [illegible] Telegraph Ave., [illegible]

**Hugh Howey** Presenting his new sci-fi book, [illegible] Mar. 19, 7 p.m., free. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-525-7777. BooksInc.net/Berkeley.

**[illegible]** A poetry reading, part of the 25th Annual California Celtic Conference. In the Maude Fife Room (3rd floor). Fri., Mar. 15, 5:30 p.m., free. Wheeler Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley.

**[illegible] and [illegible] Jr.** Discussing their book, *Black Against Empire*, the first comprehensive overview and analysis of the history and politics of the Black Panther Party. Sat., Mar. 16, 3 p.m., free. [illegible] of Berkeley, 2088 Broadway Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-2350. [illegible]BookCenter.com.

**Joshua Bloom and Waldo E. Martin Jr.** Discussing their book, *Black Against Empire*. Mon., Mar. 18, 6-7:30 p.m., free. University Press Books, 2430 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-548-0585. UniversityPressBooks.com.

**Kate Levinson** Discussing her new book, *Emotional Currency*. Tue., Mar. 19, 6-7:30 p.m., free. University Press Books, 2430 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-548-0585. UniversityPressBooks.com.

**Kazim Ali, Stewart Singleton, and [illegible]** With readings from the three poets. Thu., Mar. 14, 6-8 p.m., free. University Press Books, 2430 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-548-0585. UniversityPressBooks.com.

**[illegible]** A monthly reading series that [illegible] of prominent, emerging, and beginning writers. The March event will feature [illegible], Susan Cohen, [illegible]. Wed., Mar. 20, 7:30 p.m., free. Pegasus Books Downtown, 2349 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley & Oakland, 510-649-1320. PegasusBookstore.com.

**Michael Dear** Discussing his new book, *Why Walls Won't Work: Repairing the US-Mexico Divide*. Wed., Mar. 20, 6-7:30 p.m., free. University Press Books, 2430 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-548-0585. UniversityPressBooks.com.

**Poetry Press** With readings from [illegible], Susan Terris, and Joseph Zaccardi. Thu., Mar. 14, 7:30 p.m., free. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2087. MoesBooks.com.

**Rita Moreno** KPFA's [illegible] interviews Rita Moreno about her new memoir. Mon., Mar. 18, 7:30 p.m., free. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-647-2949. BerkeleyRep.org.

**Rob Bell** Discussing his book, *What We Talk About When We Talk About God*. Mon., Mar. 18, 7:30 p.m., free. First Congregational Church of Berkeley, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley.

**Rock Paper Scissors Story Workshop** This workshop helps participants sharpen their own fictional craft. Taught by [illegible]. Continues through Apr. 8. Donations accepted. Rock Paper Scissors Collective, 2278 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-238-9171. RPSCollective.com.

**Sayed Kashua** Discussing his new novel, *Second Person Singular*. Thu., Mar. 14, 5 p.m., free. Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life, 2121 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-643-2526. Magnes.org.

**Gene [illegible]** Shares his latest graphic novel, [illegible] Mon., Mar. 18, 7 p.m., free. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-525-7777. BooksInc.net/Berkeley.

**Vincent Katz and Cedar Sigo** Featuring readings from the two poets. Tue., Mar. 19, 7:30 p.m., free. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2087. MoesBooks.com.

**Virginia Morell** [illegible] writer Virginia Morell explores the science of animal cognition and emotion in her new book, *Animal Wise*. Thu., Mar. 14, 7:30 p.m., free. Pegasus Books Downtown, 2349 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley & Oakland, 510-649-1320. PegasusBookstore.com.

## PUBLIC INTEREST

**East Bay Workers' Rights Clinic** Providing workers with employment advice on a range of issues, including employment discrimination, unemployment, workers' compensation, wage and hour problems, and unemployment insurance. Thursdays, 6-9 p.m. Continues through Apr. 4, free. Boalt Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. Berkeley.edu.

**Interfaith/Intercultural Couples Discussion Group** Exchange ideas about such issues as holiday observances, dealing with family, raising children, spiritual concerns, and cultural differences. Wednesdays, 7:30-9 p.m. Continues through Apr. 3. $120/couple. [illegible], 2026 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-845-8426, www.[illegible].org/

**Living Liberally: Drinking Liberally** A political discussion group first and third Sunday of every month. 11 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 2221 Broadway, Oakland, 510-451-4677. LukasOakland.com.

**Prisoner Support Letter Writing** Thursdays, 6 p.m., free. [illegible], 1874 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-545-0791. [illegible].org.

**Toastmasters International @ UC Berkeley** Toast of Berkeley welcomes people of all experience levels who are interested in becoming more confident and effective public speakers. Tuesdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m., free. Barrows Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley.

**Toastmasters International @ Warehouse 416** Toastmasters International is a non-profit educational organization that teaches public speaking and leadership skills through a worldwide network of [illegible]. Tuesdays, 7 a.m., free. Warehouse 416, 416 26th St., Oakland, 510-[illegible]. Warehouse416.com.

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# FOOD & DRINK

The mozzarella curds on the Margherita pie were milky sweet.

Chris Duffey

# THE AMERICAN PIZZERIA WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR

At Jack London Square's The Forge, the pizza is Neapolitan-ish, but the chicken wings and fried cheese are as American as the county fair.

By Luke Tsai

Maybe I ate at too many terrible chain restaurants growing up, but whenever I hear "American pizza," my mind reflexively goes to Domino's or Pizza Hut. I associate "real" Italian pizza with highbrow pizzerias that have words like *antipasti* and *secondi* sprinkled on their menus like shavings of well-aged Parmigiano.

It's refreshing, then, to see The Forge, a new pizza restaurant on the Jack London Square waterfront, turn that paradigm on its head — to zig where nearly everyone else has zagged. While the pizzas adhere closely enough to the traditional Neapolitan style to please the purist, the rest of the menu is unapologetically American. We're talking fried-cheese-at-the-county-fair American, as opposed to the kind of Cal-Italian hybridized American that reigns supreme in the Bay Area. There are no pasta dishes, no salumi samplers, no plates of marinated olives. Instead, classed-up riffs on things like mozzarella sticks and buffalo wings.

With that simple concept — a strictly American pizza restaurant — the proprietors of The Forge have hit upon a formula that should appeal to a wide swath of diners, from pub-crawlers to hard-core pizza geeks, from foodies to picky pre-teens.

The foundation is still a rock-solid pizza pedigree. The literal heart of the place is a massive Italian wood-fired oven that can reach temperatures upwards of 800 degrees. More important, though, are the folks manning the oven, who include chef Jeffrey Amber (formerly of Chow and XYZ) and sous chef Jeff Hayden (Dopo and Boot and Shoe Service); both have slung a wood-fired pizza or two in their day. And serving as an ongoing pizza "R&D" consultant is Jeff Krupman, better known as the Pizza Hacker, whose exploits include fashioning a pizza oven out of a portable Weber grill — and MacGyvering out of *that* what many connoisseurs consider to be one of the best Neapolitan-style pizzas on the West Coast.

On a good day, the collaboration between these three yielded as perfect a Margherita pie as I've had in recent memory, even if (or perhaps *because*) it had little dashes of California that kept it from being strictly traditional. Instead of basil (which wasn't in season), there was a sprinkling of chopped marjoram and parsley. Instead of mozzarella *di bufala Campana*, there were mozzarella curds from Fairfield — not as wet a cheese, with a wonderful milky sweetness. The sauce, made from California-grown San Marzano-style tomatoes, was savory and well balanced.

But mainly it was the crust that stood out. Krupman based the dough on a Tartine Bakery bread recipe, and it was stellar — just chewy enough and full flavored, with a delicious hit of salt (alderwood smoked salt, no less) on the finish. The crust wasn't especially crisp (it's more of a "knife-and-fork pizza," Amber explained), but the flavors were so good it didn't matter.

There are eight specialty pizzas on the menu, and during a subsequent visit we tried the lemony, arugula-topped Three Cheese pie (a good light option) and the Pepperoni. The latter was topped with chunks of house-made pepperoni (more like Mexican chorizo than traditional sliced pepperoni) and tomato sauce spiked with spicy Calabrian chili peppers — tasty enough, though the servers should give fair warning to diners expecting straightforward pepperoni.

These pizzas had crispier crusts, but the tradeoff wasn't worth it: The undersides had big burnt patches whose bitterness took away from the dough's great flavor. But with a little more consistency, there's no question The Forge's pizza could be some of the very best in the East Bay.

Although pizza forms the backbone of the menu, the real fun lies in the starters — the tongue-in-cheek twists on appetizers I associate with chain restaurants. So instead of mozzarella sticks, there were fried cheese curds (that Midwestern staple) served with a long-simmered marinara sauce. These avoided the stringy, congealed texture of your typical mozzarella stick, and their batter was airy and light. Instead of buffalo wings, there were sauce-less smoked chicken wings — meaty, three-bone specimens served with thinly sliced celery and a buttermilk blue cheese dip.

The "potato skins," meanwhile, were really small twice-baked potatoes — their flesh mashed after the first baking, making them an excellent vehicle for a pool of potent Taleggio cheese "whiz." The only disappointment was the portion size. Surely when you order potato skins, you expect a generous pile of crunchy goodness — not five tiny half-potatoes. A couple extra spuds would make the plate feel more generous and, I presume, wouldn't break the restaurant's produce budget.

There were only a couple of clunkers. A baby romaine salad with deviled eggs and crispy crouton-like breadcrumbs sounded great, but the salad we were served had way too many butter lettuce leaves and too few of the croutons and the (rather under-seasoned) eggs. And both of the desserts we tried — a bland banana-and-butterscotch pudding and a ho-hum chocolate cheesecake — were pretty uninspired.

Still, at its core, The Forge is a crowd-pleasing restaurant — a place I wouldn't hesitate to bring even the most conservative chain restaurant partisan. That's not a knock: If I'm going to eat mozzarella sticks and potato skins for dinner, these are the ones I want to eat.

The setting doesn't hurt, either. The outdoor patio area, tricked out with blazing fire pits and Adirondack chairs, is the closest thing to sitting 'round a campfire you'll ever experience in Jack London Square. And the restaurant itself is lovely and expansive, with big picture windows facing out toward the square in every direction. All told, there are eleven beers on tap (almost all from Bay Area breweries) and several flat-screen TVs that are always tuned in to sports.

Pizza, beer, and a ballgame — what could be more American? ●

Luke.Tsai@EastBayExpress.com

### The Forge

66 Franklin St., Oakland
510-268-3200
Hours: Sun.-Thu. 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 11 a.m.-10:30 p.m.
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### Sample Menu

| | |
|---|---|
| Crispy Cheese Curds | $7.50 |
| Smoked Chicken Wings | $8 |
| Margherita Pizza | $13 |
| Pepperoni Pizza | $15 |
| Chocolate Cheese Cake | $7 |

WHAT THE FORK

# MORE DETAILS ON UPTOWN'S NEW KINGSTON 11

### Plus vinegary soda from INNA Jam's Dafna Kory

By Luke Tsai

The last we heard from Kingston 11, the jerk-chicken and reggae party was popping up every Friday and Saturday night at Berkeley's Guerilla Cafe — shining a bright light, at least for those two evenings, on a food culture that is largely underrepresented in the Bay Area.

Now the restaurant's proprietors — Adrian Henderson, Nigel Jones, and Andre King — have found a permanent brick-and-mortar home in Uptown Oakland, at the former location of Off the Hook (2270 Telegraph Avenue).

Jones, the chef, said their goal is to educate the community about Jamaican culture beyond Bob Marley and beautiful beaches. He pointed out that Kingston, Jamaica's capital, is a city — just like Oakland. "We want to mix those two concepts together," Jones said.

The project's name alludes to the zip code of the neighborhood where Jones grew up. The ninety-seat restaurant will feature full table service and a rum bar. *Signature* dishes include oxtail stew, house-smoked escovitched salmon, and, of course, the jerk chicken, which former *Express* food critic Jesse Hirsch praised for its tenderness and its "intricate, smoky, and deep" flavor (see "Kingston Style," 11/30/2011).

Most of the meat and produce will be sourced locally, with exceptions made for spices and other obscure ingredients that are only available in Jamaica. Of particular note: Jones has a cousin in Florida who will supply the restaurant with fresh ackee — to my knowledge, every other Caribbean restaurant in the Bay Area uses a canned or jarred version of the tropical fruit.

Thus, ackee and saltfish will headline the restaurant's all-day Sunday brunch menu, which also includes callaloo (a vegetable stew) as well as twists on American breakfast foods — think pancakes served with a rum-infused syrup and fresh pineapple.

And the club crowd will be happy to know that the restaurant will stay open late on Friday and Saturday nights (until 2 a.m.).

The third partner in the venture, King, is an architect who has taken the lead on the design and build-out. He described his vision for the space as "modern chic with Jamaican flavor." The decor will feature lots of greenery and will reflect the Kingstonian value of making use of the materials that one has at hand.

The three co-owners are looking toward a soft opening in mid- to late April, with a full opening sometime in May.

## For the Love of Shrub

On a recent Tuesday afternoon, I sat down with Dafna Kory, the proprietress of the Emeryville-based jam producer INNA Jam, to throw back several shots of vinegar.

INNA Jam's new shrubs. Luke Tsai

Well, that's not exactly right. What Kory set before me, in fact, were several thimbles' worth of shrub, a kind of syrup that she makes with equal parts vinegar, sugar, and fresh fruit. And though I did sip some of it straight up, mostly I drank it as Kory intended, mixed with seltzer water to create fruit-flavored sodas that were sweet and tart — as refreshing a cold beverage as one could hope for on a warm day.

Kory has been tinkering with the shrubs for the past several months, and she's now developed — and bottled — seven different flavors, each corresponding to one of her existing jams: apricot, fig, Meyer lemon, quince, raspberry, strawberry, and tayberry. They'll all be available for purchase ($15 for a 375-mL bottle) both online and at INNA Jam's commercial kitchen facility in Emeryville (1307 61st Street), starting on Wednesday, March 20.

A long-forgotten staple of colonial-era cocktail guides with roots in the ancient Middle East (the word comes from *sharab*, meaning "drink" in Arabic), shrub has been fashionable among trendsetting mixologists for the past couple of years.

What you don't see much of, however, is shrub that's bottled for home use — for mixing your own cocktails or, as Kory prefers, for making excellent fruit-flavored sodas. She explained that she became interested in shrub because she likes tart drinks, but also because making it allows her to preserve more of the fruit and to incorporate parts — the cores, for instance — that she can't use for jam making.

"It's a jam pickle," she said.

For her shrubs, Kory first adds sugar to the fruit — to macerate it, essentially coaxing out as much juice and flavor as possible. Then she adds apple cider vinegar and cold-cures the mixture in the fridge for several months. To make a soda, she mixes the shrub with seltzer at roughly a 1:5 or 1:6 ratio, though of course you can adjust to your own taste.

When I tried these freshly mixed shrub sodas, I was pleasantly surprised that the vinegar flavor, while it packed a bracing, sour punch, wasn't at all harsh. I loved the subtlety of the apricot soda — the fruit flavor more of an aftertaste than anything. The quince soda tasted like it had been perfumed with a particularly floral variety of honey. And my personal favorite, the raspberry soda, was as bold and true-tasting an embodiment of that fruit as you could hope for in a carbonated beverage.

Kory will host a party at her Emeryville kitchen on Saturday, March 23, to celebrate the release of the shrubs. If you've never tried shrub before, this would be a good opportunity to taste a few different flavors before you decide to drop $15 on an entire bottle. ●

This column is culled from our blog of the same name.

Luke.Tsai@EastBayExpress.com

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# RESTAURANTS & CAFES

## Pizza Places

### Arinell

2109 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-4035. Californians invented wood-oven fired pizza because they couldn't do New York-style pizza right. But this joint makes authentic — and tasty — thin and crisp regular pizzas and thicker Sicilian-style pies. Order by the slice or buy a whole pizza to take home. Even better, the service offends born-and-bred New Yorkers. $

### Arizmendi Bakery and Pizzeria

4301 San Pablo Ave., Emeryville, 510-547-0550. A past winner of the "best bakery in the East Bay" category of the *Express'* Best of the East Bay awards, Arizmendi — named for Basque priest/labor organizer Father José Arizmendiarrieta — is a worker-owned cooperative first conceived in 1997 by workers from Berkeley's famous Cheeseboard Collective. Although a full array of sweet and savory baked goods is on offer here — from baguettes to macaroons — thin-crusted artisanal pizza is the main attraction. Only one topping-combo is available every day, and that combo changes every day, and it's always marvelous, featuring such components as roasted red onions, shiitake mushrooms, cheddar cheese, and arugula. If you're not the take-what-comes/go-with-the-flow type, check out the whole month's pizza menu online. $

### Boot and Shoe Service

3308 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-763-2668. [illegible] California-style thin-crust pizzas are the focus of Charlie (Pizzaiolo) Hallowell's latest endeavor. Monterey Bay squid, wild nettles, Calabrian peppers and egg, potatoes, and pancetta are among the organic ingredients used to top off the tender, chewy house crust. Appetizers such as little toasts or house-made burrata show the same quality, as their Pimms cups, intriguing wine and cocktail list. The attached Boot and Shoe Café offers pristine espresso and pour-over coffee from Sightglass, house-baked pastries, and a couple of hot breakfast and lunch specials. $$

### The Cheese Board Pizza Collective

1512 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-3183. A line snakes out the door and down the sidewalk. Those in it realize that only one item is sold here, always only one, although it alters slightly every day. Because all the tables here are almost always occupied, customers carry their pizza outside into the road and eat it on the traffic median. Serving pizza by the pie, half-pie, and slice, this is one of the East Bay's favorite pizza places. Tourists come from all over the world as well, drawn by tales of a worker-owned, bossless bakery in Berkeley's Gourmet Ghetto where organic vegetables, herbs, and cheeses from around the world compose a different meatless artisanal pizza every day. The one-choice policy is awesome if you like surprises, awful if you hate your pizza [illegible] or pear. Arrive on a day when you like its components, and every bite sparkles with flavor. $

### East End Pizza Co.

1650 Park St., Alameda, 510-263-9190. Given how polished his thin-crust pies are, you'd never know Paul Manousos has zero experience as a pizzaiolo. From a stall in the Alameda Marketplace, Manousos turns out a short menu of pies that change with the seasons, cooked in a wood-burning oven. The style is a sort of New York-California hybrid — toppings that might be Venetian Soppressata, cheese and leeks, or house-made Italian-style sausage, Ligurian olives, and lemon zest but applied with such a light hand they don't overload Manousos' thin, crisp, evenly browned crusts. $$

Full Reviews Online

Nearly 600 reviews searchable by food, region, and price at **EastBayExpress.com** or **m.EastBayExpress.com**

### Gioia Pizzeria

1586 Hopkins St., Berkeley, 510-528-4692. Sold by the slice and by the pie, Will Gioia's thin-crust pizza has the body of a New Yorker but the soul of a Berkeleyan. Brooklyn-born Gioia earns marks with Manhattanites for his crisp blistered crust and thinly layered sauce and cheese. But he makes the pizzas with organic flour and seasonal veggies, coming up with horrifically delicious West Coast combinations. $

### Hot Italian

5959 Shellmound Ave., Emeryville, 510-922-1969. Hot Italian is a case study in how a restaurant can maximize its use of a single ingredient — in this case head *pizzaiolo* Fabrizio Cercatore's handspun pizza dough. The customizable mix-and-match menu allows you to put your salad on top of a pizza or to turn your pizza into a panini or a calzone — all using the same basic dough. It's smart economics and also a bit of a gimmick, but fortunately Hot Italian's thin-crust pizza is good enough to smooth over any wrinkles. Winners on the seasonal menu include the Cannavaro (a well-executed classic Margherita), the Ligabue (with pine nuts and pesto), and the Aznavl — a roasted-vegetable-and goat-cheese combo that embodies the restaurant's blending of Italian and Californian pizza traditions. $$

### Jupiter

2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-8277. Just a stone's throw from UC Berkeley, the local talent chucks itself out at this upstairs-downstairs-and-outdoors pub, washing down wood-fired pizzas, tomato sandwiches, and salads with the outpourings of 30 taps, including eleven house brews. A crackling open fire on the patio out back perfumes the air for a city block, helping make this a first date fave. $$

### Lanesplitter Pizza and Pub

2033 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-1652; 4799 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-5350; 1051 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-527-8375; 536 Lake Park Ave., Oakland, 510-893-4001; 3645 San Pablo Ave., Emeryville, 510-594-9400. Lanesplitter isn't just a pizzeria, it's a lifestyle. The crackly thin-crust pizzas, sold by the slice and by the pie, are quite the draw but not the main one. Everyone, from art students to young families, shows up at the three sit-down locations — big, quirky, and instantly comfortable — to hang out for hours, chatting over their veggie combos and pitchers of local microbrews. $

### LoCoco's Restaurant

4270 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-652-6222. Although it calls itself Sicilian, LoCoco's sticks to the basic tenets of American Italian cuisine: Red for marinara, white for cream sauce, and green for pesto. Pizza, that Sicilian specialty, dominates the menu. Its many regulars love the familiar atmosphere, the reasonable prices, and the excellent service. $$

### Paisan

2514 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-649-1031. The thin-crust pizza concept from the Ka Restaurant Group (Sea Salt, T Rex, Lalime's, etc.) serves a sort of hybrid Neapolitan-NorCal pie, showcasing farm-fresh produce and high-end proteins on the chewy sort of crust Californians seem to prefer. The space is handsome, with exposed brick, rough timbers, and floor-to-ceiling windows looking out on San Pablo Avenue, but the quality of the pizzas varies (rule of thumb here: the more toppings the better). The day starts with a casual breakfast featuring Blue Bottle coffee, sweets from the Ka pastry department, and a couple of egg dishes. $$

### Pizza Rustica

5422 College Ave., Oakland, 510-654-1601. It may be *rustica*, but

# RECENTLY REVIEWED

## Duende

468 19th St., Oakland, 510-893-0174. This zesty Spanish restaurant from former Oliveto chef Paul Canales is nothing if not ambitious: a 4,000-square-foot multi-use space that includes a high-end coffee shop, a wine and olive-oil retailer, an art gallery, and a performance venue for experimental jazz. It's a stylish place, with food that befits the grand, vibrant setting. Canales takes traditional Spanish and Basque small plates as a jumping-off point but embellishes them with global, Californian, and modern touches: A salad of frisée and fried baby squid is crowned with a sous vide egg, a pork-trotter-and-cheek fritter is served over a French-tasting mustard sauce. The hamburguesa torrero (beef tartare reimagined as a burger and fries) is a sizzling, and the arroz negro (topped — California-style — with local, seasonal seafood) is worth the splurge. $$$-$$$$

## Jodie's Restaurant

902 Masonic Ave., Albany, 510-526-1109. Tucked under a BART overpass on a quiet side street in Albany, Jodie's is so small it's easy to miss — just a six-stool counter and a plastic table or two outside if the weather's nice. But despite its unassuming appearance, Jodie's offers one of the best greasy-spoon-style American breakfasts you'll ever have the pleasure of eating. For 24 years, Jodie Royston has been serving up eggs poached or scrambled just so, crisp hash browns, and English muffins grilled to crunchy, golden-brown perfection — all in a cubbyhole of a space that positively exudes small-town charm. A visit specials board means there's always something new to try but surefire winners include the Eggs Royston (a tangy spin on a traditional Eggs Benedict) and any dish that comes with Royston's thick, creamy grits (available Friday through Sunday). $-$$

## Ramen Shop

5812 College Ave., Oakland, 510-788-6370. The buzz has been deafening since the news first broke that three Chez Panisse alums would be opening a noodle shop that fused Japanese tradition with the market-driven approach that Bay Area cuisine is known for: ramen topped with seasonal ingredients like Meyer lemon and Dungeness crab — whatever is best and freshest on a given day. While the labor-intensive soup bases aren't strictly traditional, each bowl of ramen is marked by the precision and obsessive attention to detail that is the hallmark of Japanese cooking. The noodles are always springy, the spit-roasted shoyu pork is tender and unctuous, and each soft-boiled egg has a bright orange yolk with just the right consistency. Meanwhile, some of the most memorable items are the non-ramen dishes: a halibut tartare salad that was a study in bright, clean flavors; a wonderfully varied pickle plate; and intensely aromatic fried rice featuring shrimp and wild nettles. $$-$$$

## Tea Here Now

1722 Webster St., Oakland, 510-832-4832. Tea Here Now is a labor of love for Andrea Tyler, a nonprofit-event-planner-turned-tea-maven who runs this charming, tiny cafe with the sort of warm hospitality you might normally associate with the cheeriest of B&B hostesses. The shop carries about twenty different teas at a time, all well sourced and well priced. All you need to do is ask, and Tyler will tell you about the 112-year-old Kenyan tea farmer who supplies one of her classic black teas, or enumerate the differences between three different Earl Greys, each one aromatic and subtly sweet. Foodwise, Tyler serves mostly big, wholesome salads that vary from day to day. In the mornings, there are steel-cut oats, and most afternoons there's a barely-sweet black forbidden rice pudding — redolent of cardamom and coconut milk — that pairs well with an Earl Grey. $

## Asha Tea House

2086 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-1137. Asha Tea House is a rare hybrid: a serious teahouse where fruity boba drinks and fine Chinese teas are prepared with the same attention to detail. Owner David Lai aims to bring Asian tea culture — high-, low-, and middlebrow — to a wider American audience. Pick any drink and you'll notice the difference: A standard pearl milk tea features organic Assam black tea and hormone-free milk, the chewy tapioca pearls are nearly indistinguishable from the ones sold by the best boba hawkers in Taiwan. Fruit-flavored drinks, like the refreshing Fuji apple black tea, have house-made seasonal fruit purées as their base. Meanwhile, there's an excellent selection of higher-end loose-leaf teas, all served in a traditional lidded bowl called a gaiwan. Food is limited to snacky sweets, all very good, especially the thick, Hong Kong-style condensed-milk toast and the Portuguese egg tarts (supplied by San Francisco's Mama & Crème). $

the pizza here is fine stuff. This popular College Avenue pizzeria bakes up thin-crust pizzas topped with intriguing combinations of the freshest ingredients. The crisp wheat and crumbly cornmeal crusts are both worth a try, as are the selection of inexpensive Italian and Californian wines you'll never find at your local Domino's. For the gluten-free crowd, Rustica's specially made crust is a heavenly treat, resembling focaccia; it could trick even the most wheat devoted. Call ahead to check for availability. $-$$

## Pizzaiolo

5008 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-4888. Charlie Hallowell loved working the ovens at Chez Panisse so much he made them the focus of his own restaurant, a former hardware store stripped down to its brick walls and built back into a casual, stylish space. Pizzaiolo's pizza is good — combinations like house-made sausage and mustard greens are both populist and refined — but the antipasto platter, baked pastas, and entrées, all made from whatever local products are at their finest, get equal billing. $$-$$$

## Rotten City Pizza

6613 Hollis St., Emeryville, 510-655-2489. 6613 Hollis St., Emeryville, 510-655-2489. Emeryville's reigning pizza champ is a hybrid, merging the New York style aspirations of Brooklyn-born Jonas Bernstein with the Cal-cuisine pedigree of Chef John Streit (Pizzaiolo, Pizzeria Delfina). The basics don't quite hold up, with the thin crust on the margherita not able to withstand the thick coating of sauce. Once Streit starts working his magic on the crostini, look out. The Calabrian pizza is a can't miss, with a house-made Italian sausage (ground with paprika, fennel, and Becker pork shoulder); Gaeta olives (striking, yet milder than a Kalamata); potent Calabrian chilies; and a sprinkling of toasted fennel seeds. $$

## Zachary's Chicago Pizza

1853 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-5950; 5801 College Ave., Oakland, 510-655-6385. Winning nearly every popularity poll, Zachary's three locations have been packed at dinnertime for more than twenty years. Chicago-style stuffed pizza with fillings between two dough layers are the main draw, accompanied by Berkeley-style salads and good cheap wine. If you can't handle the hour-long wait, pick up a half-baked pie to finish in your oven. Despite — or maybe because of — the ruckus, Zachary's is a family and first-date favorite. $-$$

### Price Key

**Assumes diners will order a main course and beverage, share appetizers and desserts, and tip. $ — up to $10 per person, $$ — $10-$25, $$$ — $25-$50, $$$$ — more than $50.**

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# FOOD & WINE

## CULINARY & WINE

**Farmstead Wine Tasting** Hosted by Farmstead's knowledgeable staff, with all proceeds going to local schools. Thursdays, 5-7 p.m.; Saturdays, 2-5 p.m. $1 per flight. Farmstead Cheeses & Wines, 6216 La Salle Ave., Oakland. 510-655-8400. FarmsteadCheesesWines.com.

**Friday Nights @ OMCA** The Bay Area's most talked-about food truck party comes to Oakland. Fridays, 5-9 p.m. free. Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-318-8400. MuseumCA.org.

**Off the Grid** With food trucks, drinks for sale, music, kids' activities, and half-price museum admission Fridays. 5-9 p.m. free. Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-318-8400. MuseumCA.org.

**Tagine: Moroccan Pop-Up Night** With Moroccan food prepared by chef Zoulfa Hargan. Every other Thursday, 6-11 p.m. Guerilla Cafe, 1620 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-2233. GuerillaCafe.com.

**Vintage Berkeley Wine Tasting** Try five wines for $5 at both the Vine St. and College Ave. stores. Check their Facebook earlier in the day for details on what bottles will be poured that day. Thursdays, 5-7 p.m. $5. Vintage Berkeley, 2113 Vine St., Berkeley. 510-665-8600.

## FARMERS' MARKETS

**Alameda Farmers' Market** With locally grown fruits and vegetables, plus family activities. Tuesdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. PCFMA.com. Alameda Farmers' Market, Haight Ave. at Webster St., Alameda.

**BAHIA Farm Fresh Market Community Oakland Stand** Farm Fresh Choice runs produce stands in limited-resource neighborhoods. Tuesdays, 3:30-6:30 p.m. free. 510-548-1704. EcologyCenter.org. Bay Area Hispano Institute for Advancement, 2 & Eighth St., Berkeley. 510-525-9853. BAHIA-bc.com.

**Bayfair Center Farmers' Market** Fresh produce supplied by local organic and specialty farmers. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. Bayfair Center, 15555 E. 14th St., San Leandro. 510-357-6000. ShopBayfair.com.

**BYA Farm Fresh Market Community Oakland Stand** Farm Fresh Choice runs produce stands in limited-resource neighborhoods. Tuesdays, 3:30-6:30 p.m. free. 510-548-1704. EcologyCenter.org. Berkeley Youth Alternatives, 1255 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-845-9010. BYAonline.org.

**Frances Albrier Farm Fresh Market Community Farmers' Stand** Farm Fresh Choice runs produce stands in limited-resource neighborhoods. Wednesdays, 3-6:30 p.m., and 510-548-1704. EcologyCenter.org. Frances Albrier Community Center, San Pablo Park, 2800 Park St., Berkeley. 510-981-5050. CI.Berkeley.CA.US.

**Fruitvale Farmers' Market** With locally grown and produced fruit, vegetables, bread, and more. Accepts WIC and EBT. Sundays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. free. 510-535-6920. Fruitvale Village, 3401 E. 12th St. (at Fruitvale BART), Oakland. 510-534-6080. UnityCouncil.org.

**Grand Lake Farmers' Market** This weekly market hosts more than 70 produce, prepared foods, and arts and crafts vendors. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. free. 800-897-3276. [illegible] Splash Pad Park, Grand Ave. and Lake Park Ave., Oakland. 510-238-7275. OaklandNet.com/Parks/Parks/Splash.asp.

**Hayward City Hall Farmers' Market** A farmers' market featuring locally grown and processed foods from more than 30 farmers and specialty food purveyors. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. 800-897-3276. AgricultureInstitute.org. Hayward City Hall, 777 B St., Hayward. 510-583-4000. CI.Hayward.CA.US.

**Kensington Farmers' Market** With a nursery, fresh flowers, an organic chocolatier, bee products, fresh wild fish, fruits and vegetables, nuts, butters, bread, cheese, fresh pasta, and seasonal surprises. The market also hosts live music and entertainment. Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. 510-847-0881. KensingtonFarmersMarket.org. Oakview Circle, at the Colusa Circle, Kensington.

**Laurel Market Farmers' Market** With certified organic produce from [illegible] Organic Farm and a youth-led prepared food booth called the Purple Lawn Cafe. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. 510-482-1080. FoodCommunityCenter.org. Laurel District Oakland Market, 4173 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland.

**Montclair Village Farmers' Market** Featuring organic produce and prepared foods. Free parking in Village garage at the top of La Salle Avenue. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. MontclairVillage.com/farmers_market.html. Downtown Montclair Village, LaSalle and Moraga Aves., Oakland.

**North Berkeley Farmers' Market** With locally specialty foods, organic produce and more for sale, along with special programs and events. Thursdays, 3-7 p.m. free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Shattuck Ave. at Rose St., Berkeley.

**Oakland Community Oakland Stand** With organic local produce, free samples, and cooking demonstrations. Wednesdays, 2-5:30 p.m. Continues through June 26. free. St. Martin de Porres School, 675 31st St., Oakland. 510-652-2270. SMDP.org.

**Old Oakland Farmers' Market** Features seasonal produce, breads, and pastries and other organic foods, along with plenty of samples. Fridays, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Old Oakland Farmers' Market, 9th St. between Broadway and Clay St., Oakland. UrbanVillageOnline.com/markets/old-oakland.

**Pacific Coast Jack London Square Farmers' Market** With seasonal produce, greens, nuts, freshly baked bread, pastries, cut flowers, specialty foods, yoga classes, live music, and arts and crafts for kids. Sundays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. free. PCFMA.com. Jack London Square, Webster and Water St., Oakland.

**Richmond Farmers' Market** With fresh, locally grown fruit, live chickens, flowers, [illegible]. Fridays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. free. RichmondFarmersMarket.org. Richmond Farmers' Market, 24th St. and Barrett Ave., Richmond.

**Saturday Berkeley Farmers' Market** With fresh and organic produce, breads, specialty foods, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. 510-981-7000. CI.Berkeley.CA.US.

**South Berkeley Farmers' Market** With fresh produce and other items for sale. Tuesdays, 2-6:30 p.m. South Berkeley Farmers' Market, Adeline and 63rd Sts., Berkeley. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org.

**Temescal Oakland Market** California certified farmers offer seasonal produce, dried fruits and nuts, fresh ranch eggs, baked goods, locally caught fish, fresh-cut flowers, and more. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. 510-745-7100. DMV Parking Lot, 5300 Claremont Ave., Oakland.

**Tuesday Berkeley Farmers' Market** Fresh and organic produce, breads, specialty foods, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m. free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Tuesday Berkeley Farmers' Market, 63rd plus Adeline Streets, Berkeley. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org.

**Youth-Led Farm Stand** The fresh farm stand in the heart of the Foothill Square neighborhood features seasonal produce from regional farmers and select urban gardens, along with bulk dry goods and nutrition-related products. At 10939 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. Mondays, 3-6 p.m. free. FoodCommunityCenter.com.

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*Submissions for calendar listings should be e-mailed to Calendar@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Calendar Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA, 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.*

## PICK

### Fermentation Lecture and Workshop

Learn how fermentation works and how to make your own fermented foods and drinks such as kefir, kvass, kombucha, ginger beer, and pickles — at Ohlone Herbal Center (1250 Addison St., Berkeley) on Friday and Saturday, Mar. 15-16. A fermentation lecture on Friday night introduces the microorganisms and the research revealing their benefits. An all-day workshop on Saturday involves hands-on projects. Participants can bring [illegible] made. Fri. 7 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m., $135 suggested donation and materials fee. 510-540-8010 or OhloneCenter.org. — *Anneli Rufus*

# PHANTOM INDIA

The delusional world of India Stoker (*Stoker*) and the changing tastes of CAAMFest.

By Kelly Vance

Nicole Kidman plays Evie Stoker, mother of India (Mia Wasikowska), in the creepy melodrama Stoker.

India Stoker is a name to conjure with. In the case of *Stoker*, the first English-language film by South Korean shockmeister Park Chan-wook, the conjuror himself is every bit as compelling as his subjects and the material they inhabit — a psychological, vaguely supernatural, decidedly gothic framework of cruelty and deceit in a mansion in the woods.

Lanky, sober, impressionable India (Mia Wasikowska) is the eighteen-year-old daughter of Evie Stoker (Nicole Kidman), a petty, selfish woman at the head of a family burdened with taxidermy, bourgeois stuffiness, and an inclination to eavesdrop. Since the recent accidental death of her father Richard (Dermot Mulroney, in flashback), India finds herself unloved at home and picked on at school. Into this stifling picture comes Charles Stoker (Matthew Goode), younger brother of India's late father, who arrives to stay with the mourning family. There's something wrong with Uncle Charlie, but we can't quite put our finger on it. Maybe it's his orange bottled tan, or the odd innuendos he throws India's way, like the "not ready to be opened" dinner-table line — is he referring to the wine or to his niece?

As in many melodramas, especially those of Alfred Hitchcock — from whose *Shadow of a Doubt* screenwriters Wentworth Miller and Erin Cressida Wilson freely help themselves (you can add *Psycho* as well) — India develops a feverish infatuation with her uncle. Disturbing, violent fantasies come to haunt her even in her waking life, and they worsen as we go deeper into the vortex. Both the acting and the decor are heavily stylized. A certain brittle sexual electricity fills the air. Friends begin to whisper about Charlie and Evie's closeness so soon after the demise of her husband. India dislikes being touched by her mother, but shows a fondness for firearms. Uncle and niece play a bizarre four-handed piano piece. Evie burns her husband's possessions. India finds spiders in her clothes. Characters gradually begin disappearing.

Director Park, perhaps the most interesting of South Korea's bumper crop of visual stylists in the past decade, has a definite knack for setting disturbing scenes, but we suspect he's on his best behavior for his first Hollywood job. After all, at this stage of his career it just won't do to have Nicole Kidman spread-eagled in a trap of piano wire. But we can see he's slowly creeping up on the show-stoppingly grotesque images he created for *Thirst* and *Oldboy*. Perhaps as tribute to Hitchcock and in deference to Hollywood, Park eases back on the shock cuts in *Stoker* and gives the high-priced talent room to work. They're more important than the plot.

Chung Chung-hoon's cinematography is a marvel to behold. Consistent with Park's earlier thrillers, *Stoker* (the name is evidently a consensus nod to Bram S., author of *Dracula*) is emotionally uninvolving but perversely exciting, as if India and her relatives were a species of deadly insects instinctively circling each other, clicking their mandibles.

**Stoker**

Directed by Park Chan-wook. With Mia Wasikowska and Nicole Kidman. Opens Friday.

**CAAMFest**

March 15-23 at the Pacific Film Archive

Pale and blond for most of her ingénue career, Ms. Wasikowska looks wonderful as a brunette. Her intensity, however, remains unchanged. Ditto Kidman's prickly matriarch — she's one of the best female heavies in the business, a glacier of ill-will. English actor Goode, the epitome of a light leading man type (*Loop Your Brideshead Revisited*, *Match Point*), reveals hidden wellsprings of iniquity — he should thank the producers for the chance to let his freak flag fly. Everyone's favorite skewed old aunt Jacki Weaver shows up as India's nosy grandmother, and as a bonus, professional provocateur Harmony Korine gets a cameo part. We get the impression that Park and Korine admire each others' twisted tableaux — maybe they'll team up someday for a remake of *Gummo* with an all-Korean cast. But first, keep your eye on the spiders.

When no one was looking, the San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival reinvented itself as CAAMFest, essentially adding musical and other programs to the Center for Asian American Media's annual exhibition of movies from Asia and the US.

The good news: The festival's lineup of films appears to be as challenging and thoughtfully selected as ever. The bad news is that CAAM's "broadening" of the festival to include more non-film events is further indication that those entertainment-business feature stories we've been reading may indeed be true — that the young audiences CAAM is chasing aren't all that much in love with film, at least as presented by traditional film festivals. Pop-music concerts, culinary workshops, and social networking apparently appeal just as much to CAAMFest audiences as the latest Pacific Rim narratives and docs, and CAAMFest's "culture fair" offerings reflect that.

But the film crowd has not yet been completely banished. Take *Mekong Hotel* for instance. This 2012 short feature (61 minutes) from Thai international helmer Apichatpong Weerasethakul (*Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives*, *Tropical Malady*) indulges the writer-director's taste for near-catatonic pacing combined with supernatural comings and goings. The scene is a beautiful but apparently deserted hotel overlooking the title river on the Thailand side of the Thai-Lao border, where a man named Tong (Sakda Kaewbuadee) spends most of his time — when his soul isn't possessed by the ghost of his mother, who feeds on her victims' innards — chatting with Phon (Maiyatan Techaparn), the woman next door, and listening to a second man, composer Chai Bhatana, playing acoustic guitar. Commonplaces and horrors both happen at the same dreamlike tropical speed. *Mekong Hotel* screens at the Pacific Film Archive on Saturday, March 16 at 4 p.m.

Another winner from the PFA's slice of CAAMFest is *Harana*, a charming documentary by Benito Bautista that investigates the lost Filipino art of young men serenading their girlfriends outside their windows with acoustic instruments. Our guide, Fil-Am classical guitarist Florante Aguilar, meets several old-timer *harana* artists, hears their romantic Spanish-tinged love songs, and accompanies them on their rounds, helping a shy young man serenade his sweetheart. This nostalgic travelogue, a Filipino *Buena Vista Social Club*, plays Saturday at 5:30 p.m. at the PFA. The Pacific Film Archive hosts seven days of CAAMFest programs, including movies from China, North Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, Indonesia, Japan, and the US, from March 15 through 23, in coordination with CAAMFest's San Francisco schedule. For up-to-date info, visit CAAMedia.org. ●

Kelly.Vance@EastBayExpress.com

# MOVIES & THEATERS

*To learn where a movie is playing, go to EastBayExpress.com or scan the QR code. Capsule reviews are written by J.R. Jones (J.J.), Ben Sachs (B.S.), and Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films, see One-Night Stands at the end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to Ellen.Cushing@EastBayExpress.com*

## OPENING

**Beyond the Hills** Cristian Mungiu, the Romanian director of *4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days*, casts another tale of women in trouble with this slow, artful drama about trouble in a rural religious community. Orphaned adult Alina (played by Cristina Flutur) has returned from Germany for [illegible] (Cosmina Stratan), her [illegible] lover and former orphanage companion, but the newly religious Voichita, now a novice nun, is having a hard time tearing herself away from the convent, and the priest who [illegible] the nuns Alina breaks out. The priest (Valeriu Andriuta) doesn't make [illegible] any easier. As in his earlier films, writer-director Mungiu — working off Tatiana Niculescu's novel — starts slowly and builds a head of [illegible] as frustrated Alina and the church folks scale the hysterical heights. If this were the Middle Ages they would have burned Alina at the stake. [illegible] (150 min.) (K.V.)

**The Call** Thriller starring Halle Berry as a 911 [illegible] who finds herself on the hunt for a [illegible] confronting her own past in the [illegible]. Directed by Brad Anderson; written by Richard D'Ovidio, [illegible] D'Ovidio, and Jon Bokenkamp; [illegible] starring Abigail Breslin.

**A Fierce Green Fire** Documentary [illegible] the past, present, and future of the [illegible] movement. [illegible] (114 min.)

**The Incredible Burt Wonderstone** Traffic alert: [illegible] Steve Carell, Steve Buscemi, Jim Carrey, Alan Arkin, James Gandolfini, Jay Mohr, Michael Herbig, and Olivia Wilde star as rival magicians (and their friends) trying to one-up each other at Las Vegas. Carrey wins easily, but you have to sit through the movie to see his "Brain Rapist" act. It's not worth it. What's really incredible is that director Don Scardino and four writers were willing to let this [illegible] (100 min.) (K.V.)

**Stoker** India Stoker: a name to conjure with. And Mia Wasikowska's role as a [illegible] teenager [illegible] with her father's recent death, her vicious mother (Nicole Kidman), and the arrival of India's uncle Charlie (Matthew Goode) [illegible] Alfred Hitchcock's *Shadow of a Doubt*. It's a winning come-out act of the [illegible] for South Korean shockmeister Park Chan-wook, his first English-language film and his first with [illegible] Hollywood [illegible] Wasikowska, Kidman and Goode go to the filmmaker's spooky reputation — *Oldboy*, *Thirst* — and take Park's potential disturbing, [illegible] visions [illegible] deeper into the emotional [illegible]. Chung Chung-hoon's cinematography is also a [illegible] to behold. [illegible] (K.V.)

## ONGOING

**21 and Over** Coming-of-age buddy comedy about a 21st birthday and the comedy hijinks, visions and [illegible] by Jon Lucas and Scott Moore, starring Miles Teller, Justin Chon, and Jonathan Keltz.

**Argo** Ben Affleck's [illegible] Once more we [illegible] the 1979-80 US Embassy hostage crisis in Iran, courtesy [illegible] director Affleck, who casts himself as a [illegible] CIA "exfil" specialist [illegible] American Embassy staffers who escaped [illegible] to Tehran, and then to smuggle the six out of the country disguised as a Hollywood film crew [illegible] for a [illegible] movie called *Argo*. [illegible] Chris Terrio's screenplay (adapted from Joshuah Bearman's *Wired* magazine article) [illegible] a superficial resemblance to the

**Showtimes Online**

*Movie showtimes and below ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com or by scanning the code below* nutty-but-true situations in Charlie Wilson's War, but with most of the action drained out of it. And we're left with a routinely tense procedural race against the clock. The nice (wry) character work by John Goodman and Alan Arkin — as movie producers arranging the dummy "production" — is forced to take a downshift to the national security heroics. Should have been the other way around. (120 min.) (K.V.)

**Barbara** German actress Nina Hoss (A Woman in Berlin) ... stars in the story of a ... doctor, circa 1980, whose recent application for a visa to leave East Germany for the West — a political no-no in that communist country — has caused her demotion and relocation to a provincial town. Dr. Barbara Wolff (Hoss) suspects that everything she says or does is being spied on by the police, even her budding relationship with a friendly doctor (Ronald Zehrfeld) at the pediatric hospital where they both work. Writer-director Christian Petzold, who wrote the screenplay with Harun Farocki, keeps typical spy thriller elements to a minimum, relying on Hoss and her supporting players to sketch in the daily frustrations of living in a totalitarian surveillance state. That austerity pays off. (105 min.) (K.V.)

A Fierce Green Fire

**Bullet to the Head** At this stage of his career, Sylvester Stallone has the perfect face — weary, dissipated, but hard-boiled — for the ultra-violent story of a hired assassin Jimmy Bobo, who forms an unlikely alliance with a police detective (Sung Kang) to dismantle the pandemic corruption of "Crescent City." Stallone is also fortunate to have old pro action auteur Walter Hill (The Warriors, 48 Hrs., Wild Bill) in the director's chair. Together they make the often-corny dialogue and action not only plausible but weirdly logical. Alessandro Camon's screenplay is adapted from the Du plomb dans la tête, a graphic novel by Matz and Colin

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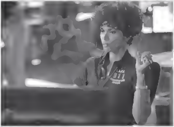

*Halle Berry in The Call*

[illegible] Christian [illegible] as a [illegible]. (98 min.) (KV)

**Dead Man Down** A physically and emotionally damaged woman (Noomi Rapace) forms an unlikely [illegible] with her neighbor, a [illegible] hit man (Colin Farrell), with their [illegible] plans for vengeance [illegible] at first. The mechanisms of revenge turn out to be [illegible] love affair, so there's a small [illegible]. Rapace and Farrell [illegible] good [illegible] — she's surprisingly tender and his eyes have never been sadder. [illegible] [illegible] by Danish director Niels Arden Oplev, who handled Rapace in the Swedish version of The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo. Screenplay by J.H. Wyman. (118 min.) (KV)

**Django Unchained** Quentin Tarantino's [illegible] since Jackie Brown is [illegible], bloody [illegible] [illegible] action-packed [illegible] not only to the filmmaker's beloved spaghetti westerns and [illegible] shockers such as Mandingo but [illegible] you'll [illegible] the [illegible] Jamie Foxx, [illegible] and Christoph Waltz, as a bounty hunter [illegible] the [illegible] South, circa 1858, to [illegible] with a [illegible] plantation owner (Leonardo DiCaprio) and his faithful (and evil) old retainer (Samuel L. Jackson) over a slave [illegible] (Kerry Washington). [illegible] Tarantino's dialogue is [illegible] when Waltz and [illegible] say it. And the supporting cast is a who's who of [illegible] Don Johnson, James Remar, Franco Nero (the original Django), [illegible] [illegible] The Birth of a Nation [illegible] (165 min.) (KV)

**Emperor** Tense, gritty drama [illegible] post-WWII U.S. Army efforts to [illegible] Japanese war criminals [illegible] the eyes of Gen. Bonner Fellers (Matthew Fox), a staffer of top [illegible] Gen. Douglas MacArthur (Tommy Lee Jones). Fellers' [illegible] Japanese woman (Eriko Hatsune) [illegible] [illegible] by [illegible] Peter Webber [illegible] from a screenplay by Vera Blasi and David Klass, adapting the book by Shiro Okamoto. (105 min.) (KV)

**The Gatekeepers** They may do nothing more than sit and opine on camera, but what the [illegible] have to say [illegible] this documentary is highly controversial. [illegible] director Dror Moreh gathers six of the surviving Shin Bet heads [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] The top [illegible] of Israeli intelligence [illegible] [illegible] Palestinians. Worth a look for [illegible] and current events [illegible]. (95 min.) (KV)

**A Good Day to Die Hard** Bruce Willis [illegible] but that's not as much fun as it sounds. Something [illegible] NYPD detective John McClane (Willis), his CIA agent son (Jai Courtney), a [illegible] (Sebastian Koch), and a trip to Chernobyl, [illegible] with a headache-inducing CGI [illegible] in downtown Moscow (and in Budapest). [illegible] [illegible] McClane's [illegible] [illegible] "comeback" [illegible] over this. (97 min.) (KV)

**Greedy Lying Bastards** Not the most eloquent, thorough doc. Documentary filmmaker Craig Rosebraugh's anti-global-warming [illegible] a finger at the usual culprits and [illegible] at the [illegible] [illegible] the survival of the [illegible] the [illegible] of corporate profits. It's well-meaning but not focused tightly [illegible] and Rosebraugh [illegible] [illegible]. Written by Patrick Gambuti Jr. and Rosebraugh and directed by Rosebraugh. (90 min.) (KV)

**Harvest of Empire** Documentary about U.S. intervention and immigration [illegible] as they [illegible] to Latin America. Directed by Peter Getzels and Eduardo López. (90 min.)

**Identity Thief** After a [illegible] [illegible] Denver [illegible] [illegible] to Florida to confront the woman (Melissa McCarthy) who stole his identity and is gleefully running out his credit [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] drug dealers, a skip tracer, and the usual [illegible] McCarthy does [illegible] [illegible] Bateman [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] by Seth Gordon [illegible] Written by Craig Mazin and Jerry Eeten. (112 min.) (KV)

**Jack the Giant Slayer** Ancient fairy tale [illegible] Lord of the Rings [illegible] [illegible] Director Bryan Singer [illegible] Sundance), a [illegible] princess, [illegible] (Nicholas Hoult), an evil [illegible] (Stanley Tucci), a noble knight (Ewan McGregor), a [illegible] king (Ian McShane), and a swarm of ugly CGI giants. Singer and his writing crew have a [illegible] opportunity [illegible] the 25-minute mark, but continue on for 30 minutes of castle-bashing and monster-splattering instead. Surprisingly enough, it's not entirely stupid. Darren Lemke and [illegible] wrote the story, then helped Christopher McQuarrie [illegible] the screenplay. [illegible] (115 min.) (KV)

**John Dies at the End** Contains all the ingredients for a Stoned Late Show session. A pair of [illegible] guys (Rob Mayes and Chase Williamson) [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] hallucinations by the [illegible] a mind-bending psychedelic drug called Soy Sauce [illegible] [illegible] This [illegible] [illegible] David Wong's [illegible] novel, adapted by director Don Coscarelli (Bubba Ho-Tep) and [illegible] Sundance [illegible] [illegible] Paul Giamatti (100 min.) (KV)

**Les Misérables** See it for the HD spectacle, not the tunes. Tom Hooper (The King's Speech) heaps layers of visual overkill on the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Victor Hugo would ever recognize. Hugh Jackman [illegible] Russell Crowe as his nemesis, Inspector Javert? [illegible] Sacha Baron Cohen and Helena Bonham Carter as the [illegible] Thénardiers [illegible] Anne Hathaway (as [illegible] Fantine), Eddie Redmayne (Marius), and Samantha Barks (Éponine) all [illegible] for thrilling spectacle and a [illegible] you could spend an evening [illegible] [illegible] Screenplay by [illegible] Nicholson, based on [illegible] novel by Hugo. (157 min.) (KV)

**Life of Pi** An Indian teenage boy named Pi Patel (played by first-timer Suraj Sharma) is cast adrift in a lifeboat in the middle of the Pacific Ocean with a huge Bengal tiger named Richard Parker. How Pi and Richard get [illegible] [illegible] one of the most thrilling [illegible] shipwreck adventures [illegible] [illegible] Ang Lee's 3D [illegible] [illegible] adapted by screenwriter David Magee from the novel by Yann Martel [illegible] [illegible] Irrfan Khan, and Gérard Depardieu. (127 min.) (KV)

**Lore** German ingénue Saskia Rosendahl is the main reason [illegible] wartime character study. She plays the title role, the teenage daughter of a detained Nazi, who is left [illegible] Germany with her four younger siblings at the end of WWII, encountering all the expected [illegible] while dealing with her budding [illegible] director Cate Shortland, who [illegible] the screenplay with Robin Mukherjee from the novel The Dark Room by Rachel Seiffert [illegible] [illegible] The [illegible]

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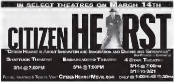

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# M&T

Containing [illegible] (The White Ribbon) as a [illegible] (118 min.) (K.V.)

**No** [illegible] Pinochet's [illegible] in Chile, [illegible] "No" campaign [illegible] (110 min.) (K.V.)

**Oz the Great and Powerful** [illegible] The Wizard of Oz [illegible]

[illegible] in the title role [illegible] Oz [illegible] The Wonderful Wizard of Oz [illegible] (127 min.) (K.V.)

**Quartet** The theater [illegible] Dustin Hoffman [illegible] Billy Connolly, Pauline Collins, Tom Courtenay, and Maggie Smith [illegible] (98 min.) (K.V.)

**Safe Haven** [illegible]

[illegible] (115 min.) (K.V.)

**Side Effects** [illegible] Steven Soderbergh [illegible] (Rooney Mara) [illegible] (Channing Tatum) [illegible] Jude Law, Catherine Zeta-Jones [illegible] Scott Z. Burns [illegible] (105 min.) (K.V.)

**Silver Linings Playbook** [illegible] Jennifer Lawrence and Bradley Cooper [illegible] Robert De Niro and Jacki Weaver [illegible]

[illegible] (122 min.) (K.V.)

**Snitch** [illegible] Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson and Susan Sarandon. (112 min.)

## ONE NIGHT STANDS

### THURSDAY, MARCH 14

**Bonjour!** (128 min., 1958) With an introduction by [illegible] (Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley, 7:00)

**Austin Mitchell International Side of Mystery** (88 min., 1997) Parkway Classics (The New Parkway Theater, 7:00)

**Incredible Burt Wonderstone** (100 min., 2013) Advanced screening [illegible] (Grand Lake Theater, Oakland, 10:00)

### FRIDAY, MARCH 15

**The 5,000 Fingers of Dr. T** (89 min., 1953) New Parkway Family Classics (Parkway, 4:00)

**Les Misérables** (158 min., 2012) [illegible] Auditorium, Berkeley, 6:30)

[illegible] (84 min., 2012) [illegible] English subtitles. [illegible] CAAMFest 2013 (PFA, 7:00)

[illegible] (87 min., 2012) [illegible] CAAMFest 2013 (PFA, 9:15)

### SATURDAY, MARCH 16

**The 5,000 Fingers of Dr. T** (89 min., 1953) New Parkway Family Classics (Parkway, 12:30)

[illegible] (84 min., 2012) In Thai with English subtitles, preceded by a short [illegible] (33 min., 2012) CAAMFest 2013 (PFA, 4:00)

[illegible] (93 min., 2012) [illegible] in English and Tagalog with English subtitles. CAAMFest 2013 (PFA, 5:50)

[illegible] (91 min., 2013) [illegible] with English subtitles. CAAMFest 2013 (PFA, 8:20)

### SUNDAY, MARCH 17

[illegible] (93 min., 2012) [illegible] with English subtitles. CAAMFest 2013 (PFA, 4:00)

[illegible] (96 min., 1962) Berkeley Underground Film Society (The [illegible] Berkeley, 7:30)

[illegible] (77 min., 2012) [illegible] in Cantonese with English subtitles. CAAMFest 2013 (PFA, 6:00)

[illegible] (105 min., 2012) [illegible] CAAMFest 2013 (PFA, 7:45)

### MONDAY, MARCH 18

**All About My Mother** (101 min., 1999) In Spanish with English subtitles. (Parkway, 7:15)

### TUESDAY, MARCH 19

[illegible] (PFA, 7:00)

[illegible] (55 min., 2012) [illegible] (Parkway, 7:30)

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

[illegible] (93 min., 2012) [illegible] with English subtitles. CAAMFest 2013 (PFA, 7:00)

**If a Tree Falls: A Story of the Earth Liberation Front** (85 min., 2011) [illegible] (Oakland, 7:30)

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LIFE OF PI 3D (PG)

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MON-THUR: 3:30, 7:45

GREEDY LYING BASTARDS (PG13)

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# ANTWON ON THE FRINGE

The San Jose rapper's outsider ethos may be his ticket to crossover popularity

By Whitney Phaneuf

Antwon's raw, DIY aesthetic is part of his appeal.

It should have been easy to spot Antwon — a stout African American among the crowd of skinny white goths who typically frequent Elbo Room's monthly party 120 Minutes. "I'm in front," he texted, but wasn't — he was outside, hiding in the shadows of the adjacent Sycamore Street, smoking a cigarette and drinking a tall boy wrapped in a brown paper bag.

It had been a big week for the 26-year-old San Jose rapper. *SPIN* named his new album *In Dark Denim* "Rap Release of the Week" and dramatically proclaimed him "The last truly weird Internet rapper alive." But Antwon (né Antonio Antwon Williams), who sported a plain vintage button-down shirt, black pants, and a flat billed cap, wasn't celebrating with his crew or getting pumped for his headlining set: his shoulders slouched and his eyes were cast on the pavement. He smoked in silence while his best friend and collaborator Doug Gough (aka DJ Sex Play), stood a few feet away texting. When I asked Antwon about *SPIN*, he shrugged and said "Ah, I'm just Internet famous."

That could change with *In Dark Denim*, his third full-length and first on Greedhead Music, the label of former Das Racist emcee Himanshu Suri (aka Heems). Hook-laden and lewd, tracks "3rd World Girl" and "Work 4 Me" are club-friendly party jams that still maintain Antwon's deviant and dark edge. In the last six months, he has secured a new manager, publicist, and booking agency. The Elbo Room gig was his last local appearance before this week's six shows at SXSW, which includes *SPIN*'s official showcase.

Like most rappers who came up on the Internet, Antwon's following skews young. "Hey, 'Twon,'" a guy in a hoodie called out as he approached us. "What's up, man? Can you get my friend past the bouncer? He forgot his ID." Antwon's brown eyes scanned their faces, never directly looking at them. "I dunno what you want me to do," he finally replied. The guy pointed to another group of guys in the distance, asking, "Who does my friend most look like?" and there in the side street, clothes were swapped and driver's licenses switched. (Couldn't tell you how this worked, but pretty sure I spotted them in the mosh pit that erupted during Antwon's set.)

Antwon started rapping at an early age, but said he mostly kept it a secret, spending his early twenties playing bass in a few local punk bands and going to shows at 924 Gilman. He started recording his first demos in 2005 after meeting a girl in San Jose who wrote poetry. It got him thinking about rhythm and language. "I told her, 'You're reading it too fast,'" Antwon recalled. While *In Dark Denim* is mostly concerned with oral sex, "scoochies," and "back doors," it's also oddly romantic and nihilistic, advancing the surrealist themes he laid out on his first mixtape, 2011's *Fantasy Beds*, and on 2012's *End of Earth*. Present in all of Antwon's music is a combination of suburban dread and urban fantasy: a dream of moving out of his mom's house in San Jose but ultimately being too drunk or high to do anything about it.

"The fact that there's nothing to do in San Jose is good," said Antwon, who escapes to San Francisco two days a week to work at New Jack City, a Mission District store that sells vintage clothes and hip-hop gear. "I read a lot of books." Unsurprisingly, *The Outsiders* is among his favorites.

*End of Earth* solidified Antwon as a new voice in hip-hop, particularly in the scene that combines punk and hip-hop and includes Sacramento duo Death Grips, who also broke through last year. Antwon's size and his gruff, booming inflection have earned him constant comparisons to The Notorious B.I.G., but he's more directly influenced by Depeche Mode, the emo band Cap'n Jazz, Kid Rock, and hardcore-punk outfits like Leather and Trash Talk, with whom he's shared bills. "I don't care about hip-hop," Antwon said unapologetically. He cut his teeth playing raucous warehouse parties like Sick Sad World at the now-defunct Oakland warehouse venue Rec Center, where he met Heems: his show at 924 Gilman late last year with Main Attrakionz represented, in many ways, Antwon's worlds finally coming together.

If the crowd at Elbo Room — black leather-clad goths, punks in spiked collars, longhaired suburban skateboarders, women in basketball jerseys and fishnets, liberal arts-educated hipsters — was any indication, Antwon's misfit persona is what unites the wide spectrum of today's hip-hop fans. 120 Minutes resident DJs warmed up the crowd with a remix of Grimes' "Oblivion" and bass-heavy tracks by goth-tinged producers like Pictureplane, who provided the beat for one of Antwon's best tracks to date, "Living Every Dream." Around midnight, Antwon walked onto the bare stage with a mic in his hand, closing his eyes as Gough cued a track and a fog machine coughed behind them. He opened his eyes as he broke into "3rd World Girl," pacing around the stage and devouring the mic, which was tilted upside down and almost inside his mouth. A pit quickly formed and passed beer cans up to Antwon, until midway through the set when the moshing and crowdsurfing hit its peak, sending beer cans flying through the air. Antwon stayed focused, sweating intensely through his seven-track set, barely acknowledging a frizzy-haired metalhead who jumped onstage to scream during the last song.

Antwon's raw, DIY aesthetic — a huge part of his appeal — has ironically been one of the main criticisms lobbied at *In Dark Denim*. Some tracks sound rushed, lyrically and production-wise, and its mix of retro Nineties beats, cloud rap, aggressive digital hardcore, and hints of trap makes the album a bit disjointed. Antwon said he pulls his beats from anyone and everywhere, but works alone, recording at Gough's home studio in San Jose. If he likes a beat, he quickly starts piecing together a track, almost always improvisationally and in intense sessions during which he works obsessively toward completing a mixtape. "You can't overthink it, you know," Antwon said of his process.

The struggle to shift from the hyperactive, genre-spastic realm of Internet rap and into a more polished and defined style has plagued many artists, including Berkeley native Lil B the OG weird Internet rapper, about whom Antwon recently tweeted: "I owe @LILBTHEBASEDGOD everything thank you for being positive in a cold world." Lil B has yet to catapult his hype into mainstream stardom, but he paved the way for raw, moody, and introspective rappers Odd Future, Kendrick Lamar, and now Antwon. At the height of his career (way back in 2011), Lil B was analyzed by NPR, praised by Pitchfork, and played major festivals like SXSW and Coachella.

"I'm playing Coachella next year," Antwon told me.

"Really?" I asked.

"Naw, I wish. But I wanna make some money."

After SXSW, Antwon is set to collaborate with goth folk indie singer Chelsea Wolfe and Ryan Hemsworth, one of the hottest producers at the moment. "My manager wants me to work with all these people," Antwon paused. "But I don't fit in with a lot of shit." ■

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# PROTO-METAL PARTY MUSIC

It took San Francisco's Hot Lunch six years to release its first full-length album. The band explains why it's in no hurry.

By [illegible] Miller

Maybe you were alive during proto-metal's brief heyday — let's be charitable and call it '67 (Cream's *Disraeli Gears*) through '73 (by which point Zeppelin and Sabbath had already moved the needle off "PROTO" and fully into "METAL") — but most likely you were conceived and birthed long after it was dead and gone. Perhaps you discovered Sir Lord Baltimore's *Kingdom Come* or Captain Beyond's self-titled debut decades after their original releases and hearing that glorious, furious pre-punk bombast for the first time was like being touched by the hand of God. You wanted the world to know what you knew, so you bought period-correct gear and threads and set out to spread the gospel.

You failed.

But you are not alone. Many have come before you, and most of them failed, too. Like them, you had not internalized your influences; you were merely paying homage. Like them, you valued authenticity over inspiration. You forgot about the party.

Luckily, San Francisco's Hot Lunch is all about the party. Its hyper-driven take on heavy/psych/hard rock is the perfect soundtrack for California living: driving fast, loving loose, skating hard. The band sat down to talk about its self-titled full-length debut, out this week, a legit effort that clearly nods to the past but never sounds derivative.

"We just trust our instincts," said singer Eric Shea. "If you try and recreate too much of the past, it's never gonna happen. You've got to be honest with where you want the song to go, as opposed to where Groundhogs or Deep Purple would want the song to go."

Drummer Rob Alper added, "We honestly just play what we love." Guitarist Aaron Nudelman summed up the band's approach with "We just wanna be loud." Shea chimed back in: "And have fun."

**Show Details**
Hot Lunch plays El Rio (3158 Mission St., San Francisco) on Saturday, Mar. 30, 9 p.m., $7.
ElRioSF.com

Having fun has been Hot Lunch's mission statement since it formed in late 2006. Bassist Charlie Karr said that the band members "decided pretty much right at the beginning that we were gonna do it the way we wanted to do it, have fun with it, and let it take us where it was gonna take us."

That helps explain why, in its six-plus years as a band, Hot Lunch has released just two singles and is only now getting around to putting out a full-length. These guys are lifers: Shea did time in perennial next-big-thing Mover into the early Aughts, and Alper, Nudelman, and Karr all have long musical histories as well. None of them has illusions of "making it." Shea said that mindset is prevalent among Bay Area bands and less prevalent well — elsewhere.

Hot Lunch doesn't have illusions of "making it."

"You get over the Grapevine, and people are still trying to make it. So they play to a click track because producers like that and it can get them on the radio," Shea continued. "But here, whether you're playing with Hightower or Pins of Light or Lecherous Gaze, that's all about trying to make a good time — to be the best soundtrack to the best party. Because the best soundtrack makes the best party."

That doesn't mean Hot Lunch takes its craft any less seriously. "Some of our songs took several months of rehearsal to get down," said Alper. Nudelman explained further: "It's not necessarily because they were so intricate and complicated. That's just the way we work. It doesn't necessarily have to be done in two practices."

"Hot Lunch is kinda like a crock pot," Alper added. "We like to let it simmer."

If the new record is any indication, the recipe is a raging success. It opens with the full-throttle, full-tilt boogie of "Killer Smile," then engine-brakes into the foreboding, early-Sabbath vibe of "Knife Edge." "Handy Deany" recalls Blue Cheer's best moments by way of Detroit and Ann Arbor, while tracks like "Lady of the Lake" are reminiscent of High Tide's folk-damaged psych jams, with Nudelman's fuzzed-out wah-wah pedal guitar approximating Simon House's seasick violin. The album closes with "Monks on the Moon," a muscular, multi-movement opus that clocks in at just over eight minutes. "Monks" amalgamates all the aforementioned influences into a single song, adds some Hawkwind-style space exploration, yet still feels cohesive and propulsive.

The album has been out in Europe since January, but comes out domestically on Tee Pee Records on March 12. The band didn't need a label, per se: the record was already in the can, financed entirely by playing shows, before Hot Lunch started talking to labels. But even in this strange new digital era, a label can help raise a band's profile. Tee Pee was the only US label the band approached, and a quick look at the roster explains why: Bands like Earthless, Assemble Head in Sunburst Sound, and the Shrine are all tight bros, personally and sonically.

"We didn't want to come off as weird," Karr said, "but we were like, 'Why aren't we on that label?' It just makes sense." A quick phone call between Shea and Tee Pee boss (and Witch bassist) Dave Sweetapple was all it took. According to Shea, Sweetapple said, "'I feel like I've met you before or I've known you for a long time. Let's do this, man! I like what you guys do!' It just happened really fast." ◆

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

# SNAP, CRACKLE, POP

David Bowie surprises with his first album in a decade, Kate Nash explores her riot grrl side, and local trio Glitz does power pop with punk cheekiness.

## David Bowie

The Next Day

David Bowie has already released enough masterpieces to keep us listening for a lifetime, so his new album *The Next Day* doesn't need to prove anything. Still, it's a welcome surprise.

Whereas on his last album, 2003's *Reality*, Bowie used off-kilter art rock to express how the digital age mutates our sense of self, *The Next Day* feels like he's rediscovered his humanity. As a result, there's a sense of heightened emotion that, at times, borders on nostalgia. It's a risky move, but it mostly pays off: Among the album's stunners are sorrowful piano ballad "Where Are We Now?," the string-laden "You Feel So Lonely You Could Die," and the dark and ambient closer "Heat," with its haunting refrain *I tell myself / I don't know who I am*. Those three songs alone are worth suffering through lesser tracks like "I'd Rather Be High," with its tired Britpop guitar hook and rhyming lyrics; the overly enthusiastic love song "Boss of Me"; and the cheesy inspirational anthem "(You Will) Set the World on Fire."

Bowie doesn't hide the fact that he's drawing from his past personas to create his present sound. The squawking saxophone and witty wordplay of "Dirty Boys" recalls *Low*'s "Always Crashing in the Same Car"; the playful doo-wop of "Valentine's Day" is the heir to "Drive-In Saturday"; and the title track could have been on either of his last two releases. It took years for fans and critics to embrace some of Bowie's past albums. It may take a similar amount of time for *The Next Day* to be fully processed. (ISO/Columbia)

— *Whitney Phaneuf*

## Kate Nash

Girl Talk

"I know Kate Nash didn't come out of nowhere," read the email from Whitney when I pitched this review, "but... I know her name and I don't know why." It's hard to blame her. Nash is one of those blandly pleasant pop stars whose songs you've probably heard and probably not disliked yet can't necessarily work up the energy to feel particularly strongly about — chirpy, happy piano numbers that hit all the literal and figurative right notes but don't seem to aspire to much more than palatability.

Until now, that is: *Girl Talk*, Nash's third album since the 2007 debut that made her famous in her native UK, is, by and large, almost anything but happy: a bass- and guitar-driven, riot grrl-inspired, downright punky little record that's already raised the hackles of some of her older fans, but which will likely bring in new ones.

This is an album with many, many flaws, to be clear. Among them: an aggressive, reductive theme that Pitchfork recently described, not inaccurately, as a bit "Gender Studies 101"; lyrics that include such wince-inducing gems as *I look up to see the sky/and wish that I could fly*; a truly regrettable rap — yes, rap — track. But on *Girl Talk*, Nash also seems to have accessed an anger that she hasn't fully exhibited before, and it's at those moments that she's the most compelling — especially on "Part Heart," "Sister," and "Death Proof," when she swaps the tinkling piano for a bass, allows her voice to seethe and screech in a way that's decidedly more Courtney Love than Lily Allen, and generally aspires to *much* more than palatability. That ambition isn't always borne out clearly, but it's admirable. If you're one of the many who doesn't know Nash's name, it may be worth learning it now. (Have 10p Records)

— *Ellen Cushing*

Kate Nash plays The Chapel (777 Valencia St., SF) on May 11, 9 p.m., $16. TheChapelSF.com

## Glitz

It's Glitz

With former members of Personal and The Pizzas, Apache, The Cuts, and more, Glitz is composed of Bay Area rock journeymen with storied histories and well-honed chops. On its debut album, Glitz indulges in an affinity for riff-driven rock with nods to punk cheekiness, power-pop hooks, and glam balladry. Yet Glitz doesn't couple its Seventies rock emulation with any gimmicks. Instead, *It's Glitz* showcases the songwriting of three unique voices on a seamless debut.

Each member sings his own compositions, but there's no tension between songwriting styles. The band's playing is intuitive and lean, more chiseled than bulging, and tempered by a penchant for shamelessly bubblegum melodies. Each songwriter displays an understanding of timeless rock 'n' roll archetypes and a resolve to deliver them in the form of showy guitar solos, rapid drum fills, and memorable hooks.

Stand-out track "Unconditionally" is a sluggish love ballad punctuated by quick breaks that build to multiple guitar solos. "Innocence," another track about relationships, is propelled by crisp eighth notes and muted guitar riffs — essential power-pop tropes. Yet the intimacy of Ray Seraphin's raspy and understated vocal delivery elevates the song from a genre exercise to an affirmation of rock's emotive impact. Thankfully, Glitz navigates familiar musical styles with a sneer rather than blind reverence. (Gruner Records)

— *Sam Lefebvre*

## LOCAL LICKS

### The Weenies

The Weenies EP

Power-pop quartet The Weenies, led by singer/songwriter Erik Mullin, formed in 2005 and put out two EPs and a full-length, but this self-titled EP features a new lineup. Opener "Dynamite Moves" charms with a bubbly *hey-oh* chorus and a guitar hook as catchy as the one in "In the Street" by Big Star. Ballad "Piano Suite" and Seventies rock ditty "Out of My Hands" display Mullin's impressive vocal range: his high-notes evoking the sensitive-mook yearning of early Elvis Costello. The EP's seven songs are standard pop fare, but Mullin's voice is a rare find. (self-released)

At Neck of the Woods (406 Clement St., San Francisco) on Friday, Apr. 5, 9 p.m., $5.

### Bears! Bears! Bears!

All Dressed Up With Nowhere to Go

A lot of bands that claim to be post-punk easily capture the basic elements — reverb-drenched guitar, ominous bass lines, and bleak lyrics — but few know when to dial it back. That restraint is sadly missing from the debut album of Bears! Bears! Bears! The band seems inspired by Interpol at its most aggressive: volatile guitar riffs, throbbing bass lines, and dramatic vocals recounting girl problems of the quarter-life-crisis variety. Unfortunately, it's so over-the-top that the songwriter's misery is passed on to the listener. (Twirl Tunes Records)

At Cafe du Nord (2170 Market St., San Francisco) on Friday, Mar. 29, 9:30 p.m., $10.

### Pale Blue Dot

Magazz EP19

Local electronic label/collective Magazz releases a few EPs a year, and *Magazz EP19* offers two new instrumental tracks from Pale Blue Dot, the solo side project of Adam Myatt, one-half of pop duo James & Evander. "Voyage" starts off simple but shifts to dreamy and tripped-out as New Wave guitar riffs and swirling synths create a wall of sound. There are more surprises in "Broken Tether," which has a cold and brooding synth-pop feel until, as the title implies, the song breaks midway, fading the synths down to near silence as an emotive guitar melody takes over. The EP also includes a solid remix of "Broken Tether" by Shortcircles. (Magazz) ●

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# CONCERTS & CLUBS

## THURSDAY 14

## EAST BAY

### Blues, Folk, & Country

**Alma** [illegible] 8 & 10 p.m., $20, $30

**The Golden West** The Starry Plough, 9 p.m., $8-$12

**The Red Clay Ramblers** Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $20.50, $18.50

### Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

**Rod Dibble** Dinner jazz with guest cabaret singers. The Alley, 9 p.m., free

**Skip Henderson and** [illegible] [illegible] Lighthouse, 9 p.m., free

### Rock & Pop

**Oakland Home Grown & Artist Market** [illegible] **2013** [illegible] **The Quartet** [illegible], 8 p.m., free

**[illegible]** La Peña Cultural Center, 8 p.m., $12, $10

**The [illegible] Gang** w/ [illegible] Stork Club, 9 p.m., $6

**[illegible]** [illegible]

**[illegible] Thursdays** [illegible] Café, 7 p.m., free

**Shivering [illegible]** w/ [illegible] The Night Light, 8:30 p.m., $TBA

### World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaetón

**[illegible]** Band Volante, 8:30 p.m., free

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible] Ashkenaz, 8 p.m., $10, $15

## SAN FRANCISCO

### Blues, Folk, & Country

**[illegible] Ensemble** Cafe Du Nord, 8:30 p.m., $12, $12

**The [illegible] Band** w/ North Pacific String Band and [illegible] Hotel Utah, 8 p.m., $6

**[illegible] Brothers** [illegible] Day show w/ the [illegible] Band and [illegible] Bottom of the Hill, 9 p.m., $15, $12

**[illegible]** [illegible] 8 p.m., $30, $35

### Classical & Opera

**SF Symphony** performing Mahler Symphony No. 5 [illegible] by Michael Tilson Thomas. Davies Symphony Hall, 2 p.m., $25-$145

### Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

**[illegible]** [illegible] San Francisco, 8:30 p.m., free

**The [illegible]** Le Colonial, 7-10 p.m., free

**[illegible] Band** [illegible] House, 10 p.m., free

### Rock & Pop

**[illegible]** [illegible] House, 7 p.m., free

**The [illegible]** w/ The Primitive [illegible] [illegible] 9 p.m., $7

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible] 10 p.m., $6

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible] 9:30 p.m., $6

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible] Bottom of the Hill, 9 p.m., $10, $12

**[illegible]** w/ The [illegible] 9:30 p.m., $7

**The [illegible]** [illegible] 9 p.m., $TBA

**The [illegible]** w/ [illegible] Music Hall, 9 p.m., $5-$6

**The [illegible]** w/ [illegible] 9 p.m., $5

**The [illegible]** [illegible] 8 p.m., $30, $34

### Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible] 9:30 p.m., $10-$12

**[illegible]** playing [illegible] Top of the Mark, 7:30-11:30 p.m., $10

### World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaetón

**[illegible]** The Fillmore, 8 p.m., $35

**[illegible]** [illegible] 9 p.m., $25-$27

## FRIDAY 15

## EAST BAY

### Blues, Folk, & Country

**[illegible]** [illegible]

**[illegible]** Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $28.50, $30.50

**The [illegible]** w/ [illegible] The Starry Plough, 9 p.m., $8-$12

**[illegible]** Caffe Trieste, 8 p.m., free

**[illegible]** [illegible] 9:30 p.m., $TBA

**[illegible]** [illegible] Hall, 9 p.m., $10

### Classical & Opera

**Oakland East Bay Symphony** [illegible] Conductor, Michael Morgan. [illegible] Paramount Theatre, 8 p.m., $20-$70

### Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

**[illegible] Quartet** [illegible] 8 p.m., $15

**[illegible]** [illegible] 8 p.m., $12, $15

**[illegible] Jazz Trio** [illegible] 6:30 p.m., free

**[illegible] Trio** featuring [illegible] Jupiter, 5-7 p.m., free

**[illegible] Latin Jazz Band** Yoshi's [illegible] 8 & 10 p.m., $15-$24

**The [illegible]** [illegible] The Alley, 9 p.m., free

**[illegible]** [illegible] 8:30 p.m., $15

**[illegible]** Jupiter, 8 p.m., free

### Rock & Pop

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible] Mile High Club, 7 p.m., $TBA

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible] The Night Light, 8 p.m., $6

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible] 9 p.m., $7-$10

**[illegible]** [illegible] Stork Club, 9 p.m., $5

**The [illegible]** w/ [illegible] Café, 8 p.m., $5

### Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

**Hip Hop Beyond** [illegible] La Peña Cultural Center, 8 p.m., $18, $20

### World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaetón

**Latin Explosion** Club 21, 9 p.m., $6

**[illegible]** [illegible] 8:30 p.m., $15, $18

## SAN FRANCISCO

### Blues, Folk, & Country

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible] Bottom of the Hill, 10 p.m., $12, $10

**[illegible]** [illegible] Music Hall, 9 p.m., $7, $10

**[illegible] Bluegrass** w/ [illegible]

Myra Melford plays Freight & Salvage on 3/17

# PICKS

## Improvisation Symposium Concert

To many musicians (and even more so the laity) improvisation might seem incomprehensible. Whereas playing a pre-written piece of music requires rote memorization, improvisation involves an entirely different set of skills, one that includes an attuned sense of listening to and dialoguing with others, as well as a solid foundation from which to deviate. The Improvisation Weekend, hosted by UC Berkeley's Department of Music, is three days devoted to mastering the art, a skill that could easily be applicable to other areas of life. The event, which brings together improvisers from all over the world to share and discuss their techniques, begins on Friday, Mar. 15, with a lecture and a concert featuring musicians from Mills College and UC Berkeley and continues through the weekend, culminating in an improvisational symposium concert featuring such diverse instruments as piano (Myra Melford), harp (Zeena Parkins), lute (Miya Masaoka), and Javanese gamelan (Midiyanto, Hein Savin, Ben Brinner, Lisa Gold, Henry Spiller, and Peter Garelick). It should be mind opening. At Freight & Salvage (2020 Addison St., Berkeley) on Sunday, Mar. 17, 8 p.m., $20.50, $22.50, $10.50 for students before 7 p.m. For the full schedule: Music.Berkeley.edu. — *Kathleen Richards*

## Brilliant Colors

What better way to celebrate Spring's longer days and warmer nights than dancing to noisy, jangly pop from three excellent local bands. Since its 2009 debut *Introducing* Brilliant Colors has combined punk attitude, garage rock simplicity, and melodic pop hooks in a style all its own. The female trio's breathy vocal harmonies evoke Sixties girl groups, but before it can sound too precious or pretty it layers in abrasive post punk distortion, the atonal style of no-wave, and riotous Nineties indie rock. At the Hemlock Tavern (1131 Polk St., San Francisco) show on Saturday, Mar. 16, be sure to pick up Brilliant Colors' new self-released flexi-single with two songs that perfectly exhibit each side of the band's personality: The infectiously bright pop ditty "I Was Born a Fantasist" and the volatile, echo-drenched, "How I Solved the Problem of My Pride." Brilliant Colors is joined by its Slumberland labelmates, The Mantles, and garage punk band Serpent. 9:30 p.m., $8. HemlockTavern.com — *Whitney Phaneuf*

## Bang Data

In terms of sheer visibility, Bay Area rap-rock trio Bang Data's big moment came when its song "Bang Data" was featured in an episode of AMC's hit series *Breaking Bad* (it played during a scene in which a meth kingpin invites a slew of bikini girls out by the pool, right before a bloody shoot-out). But even without that dose of publicity Bang Data organically grew a strong following for its ever-morphing muscle of sounds influenced by rock, hip-hop, Latin, and dub reggae. When the trio recently performed a cover of Radiohead's "Optimistic" at a show at Rickshaw Stop that featured all Radiohead covers, it was easily the night's most original reinterpretation. What started out as a loud, straightforward cover quickly transformed into a dub reggae groove with Spanish hooks, thick bass, and rap interludes. The charismatic showmanship of bilingual vocalist Deuce Eclipse reeled the audience in, and the expert musicianship of Juan Manuel Caipo and Dave Lopez kept them interested. Fall under Bang Data's spell when it performs with Candelaria, Dos Four, and DJ Leydis at The New Parish (579 18th St., Oakland) on Saturday, Mar. 16, 9 p.m. $12, $15. TheNewParish.com. — *Lenika Cruz*

Band. The Fillmore, 8 p.m., $35

**Stage of Change** w/ Fill Bossa and Trevor Garrod. Amnesia, 9 p.m., $7-$10

**Joyce Grant & Marcus Shelbrock** Bright Hurricane, 8 p.m.-midnight, free

**Dick Evans & The Brubaker Brothers** Donuts & Blues, 7 & 10 p.m., $20

### Classical & Opera

**Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra Presents** The Italian Violin. Herbst Theatre, 8 p.m., $25-$95

**SF Symphony** performing Mahler, Symphony No. 9, conducted by Michael Tilson Thomas. Davies Symphony Hall, 8 p.m., $15-$143

### Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

**Gaucho Brothers Jazz Orchestra** Top of the Mark, 9 p.m.-12:30 a.m., $10

**Dan Pratt's SeaBop Ensemble** Bird & Beckett Books and Records, 5:30-8 p.m., free

**The Ways & Means Committee** In the lounge. Yoshi's San Francisco, 8:30 p.m., free

### Rock & Pop

**Cumulonimbus** w/ HMD. The Independent, 9 p.m., $20-$22

**Ed Lefkowitz** solo rock piano. Madrone Art Bar, 6-9 p.m., free

**Bloodsweat Nerds Valentine's Bitch 'N Rumble** w/ The Chop Tops, Stan Jenkins, Sony T. & The Predators, and The Bastard Makers. Slim's, 8:30 p.m., $10

**Haunt of Floyd** performing full Pink Floyd albums. Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 p.m., $24

**Japanese Baby** w/ Poisoning and The Minks. SF Mission Social House, 8 p.m., free

**Leviathan** w/ Leviathan Falls, Ian Davidson (of Crown Points), and Maddies Shapira. Hotel Utah, 9 p.m., $8

**Martha Wainwright** w/ Buffet. Cafe du Nord, 7:30 p.m., $20

**Tortoll** w/ Gaythiest and Tiger. Madrone Tavern, 9:30 p.m., $8

**Transplanted: Dan Tribute** 1984 Lounge, 10:30 p.m., $15-$35

**The Twilight Sad** w/ Vir and Sporting Life. Rickshaw Stop, 9 p.m., $15

**a Madrone Rumble** w/ Overmounds, Slobop Kid, and I Don't Wanna Hear It. Bottom of the Hill Parklet, 8 p.m., $10

### Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

**Mysterious T's Nth Annual Motorcycle** Club Party in the lounge w/ Suga T, Yo Yo, and Lady of Rage. Yoshi's San Francisco, 10:30 p.m., $20-$25

**Wax Trick** Lounge, 7:30 p.m., $12

### World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

**AfroBeltman** CD release party w/ Madrone Social Band, DJ Pleasuremaker & Sober Dr. Great American Music Hall, 8 p.m., $15

**Dub FX** w/ The Mango Kingz and Yes Al-Mudo. Elbo Room, 10 p.m., $10

## SATURDAY 16

## EAST BAY

### Blues, Folk, & Country

**Lavay Smith and Her Red Hot Skillet Lickers** w/ Dawn DeVerne & the Blue Beat Revue. Ashkenaz, 8:30 p.m., $15, $20

**The Mark Growden Trio** w/ Sophie Clark. Actual Cafe, 8 p.m., $10

**Madrone & Ashy Gunn** Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $24.50-$28.50

# C&C

**Slippery Dead** Cafe Van Kleef 9:30 p.m., $10A

## Classical & Opera

**Salomé Brothers Orchestra** Mills College Concert Hall, 8 p.m. $10-$15

## Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

**Adrea Sage Trio** Cafe Pinto 7:30 p.m., free

**Band Me The** Lenox 8 p.m. free

**Hal Galper The** Jazzschool, 8 p.m., $15, $10

**Interstellar Space: Freedom & Discussion with Dr. Anthony Brown** Jazzschool, 8 p.m. $12, $15

**Jazz & Joy** Taste of Joy 5:30 p.m. free

**Bandeo Boudou Latin Jazz Band** Yoshi's Oakland, 8 & 10 p.m. $25-$34

**Hot Dates** Inne jazz with guest cabaret singers, The Alley 5 p.m. free

**Scott Jazzschool Quartet** Bondow 8:30 p.m. $10

## Kids

**Los Amiguitos de La Peña** Saturday Bondow, children's show with live music. La Peña Cultural Center [illegible] $5 for kids

## Rock & Pop

**Algiers + Trashmud** w/ Clive-Land and Cancelit. Stork Club 9 p.m. $5

**Elephant Listening Project** w/ Mic Bend and guests TSA, Starry Plough, 9 p.m., $8-$12

**Umphrey's McGee** w/ The Bright Light Social Hour, Fox Theater 7:30 p.m. $25

## Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

**Gong Dala** + / Candelaria, Pros Four and DJ Lindal, The New Parish, 9 p.m., $12-$15

**DJ Doll** D Dorsey's Locker 8 p.m., free

**Sun Hop** Fat The Night Light, 9 p.m., $7

## World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

**Carnatic Vocal Concert w/ Sohan Venkataraman** Subterranean Arthouse 7 p.m. $15-$20

**PlanPocket Ensemble Brothers** Pub, 8:30 p.m. $3

**Queer Tango** beginner's lesson from 7 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. followed by Quartet w/ DJ Zeytan, no partner required and no experience necessary. Actual Cafe, 7:15 p.m., $3, $5, or first class free

**Song of Unity Sohan Fundraising Event** Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse 8 p.m. $20, $25

# SAN FRANCISCO

## Blues, Folk & Country

**Earnest Cool** Dogpatch Saloon, 9-11 p.m., free

**Hill Fest. Mobile Souls** Great American Music Hall, 9 p.m. $30

**Orchestra di Studios** Italian folk music with Stem Maguera, Caffe Trieste 10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. free

**Mighty Mo Rodgers** Biscuits & Blues, 8 & 10 p.m. $12

**The Bent String Express** + / Wreck The Place. SF Mason Social House, 7 p.m. free

## Classical & Opera

**Guitarist Andrei Oglio** Green Room, 8 p.m. $34

**SF Performances Brothers the Alexander String Quartet with Robert Greenberg** Herbst Theater 10 a.m. $35-$50

**SF Symphony** performing Mahler Symphony No. 8; Orchestra by Michael Tilson Thomas, Davies Symphony Hall, 8 p.m. $15-$843

## Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

**Whiteout LaBrothers** in the lounge, Yoshi's San Francisco 6:30 p.m. free

**Quartet ft The Big Harlecho String Affair** Rickshaw Stop, 8 p.m., $10-$15

## Rock & Pop

**Big Band Todd & The Monsters** The Fillmore 8 p.m. $28.50

**Big Tree** w/ Astronauts and Dear Indugo, Bottom of the Hill 9:30 p.m. $10

**The Quartet** w/ Conspiracy of Beards, Make-Out Room 7:30 p.m. $6

**Brilliant Colors** w/ The Mantles and Stringers, Hemlock Tavern, 9:30 p.m., $8

**Chris The Drakeneire** w/ Dirk Frank and the Co-Defendants and Ash Grey, Brick Utah 9 p.m. $10

**Imagine Dragons** w/ Atlas Genius and Nico Vega, The Warfield 7 p.m., $25-$27

**St. Paddy's Polo Bash II** Pa / La Plata, Rockford Room VICIOUS, The Hacking Bushwhoos, and more Thee Parkside 3 p.m. $5-$10

**St. Patrick's Day Bash** w/ Duplonious Madmen and Audible Smoke Signal, 50 Mason Social House 10 p.m. free

**St. Patrick's Day Celebration** + / Joe Sheldon and Lea Marie Johnson, Brick & Mortar Music Hall, 8 p.m. $15-$20

**The Jones Brown** Bondow Bar & Grill, 10 p.m. $5

## Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

**A-1** + / Deign Dre Nate (The Great) and Sayberwedge Stess, 9 p.m. $15

**Beckers** + / Gyrnar & the Pimp Band Las Orchestra, DJ P.Brown Rox, Bonneville Room 8:30 p.m. $12-$15

## World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

**Bareto** Yoshi's San Francisco 8 & 10 p.m. $30-$50

**Shahyar Ghanbari Ghanbari Shahyar's Shah Taraneh** Herbst Theatre 7:30 p.m., $50-$85

## SUNDAY 17

# EAST BAY

## Blues, Folk, & Country

**Americana Unplugged** with Ashley, Jupiter, 5 p.m. free

**The Makem & Spain Brothers** Yoshi's Oakland, 7 p.m. $20

**St. Patrick's Day Blind Club** Albatross Pub, 8 p.m. $3

**The Starry Plough's 40th Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration** w/ Dowog w/ Ibrgue, the Michelle Irish Dancers and John Staymaker, Starry Plough, 8 p.m. $10-$12

**Quartet Morning Band** with Rev Rabia, Caffe wooden ahoum, 10 a.m., free

## Classical & Opera

**Alfaro String Quartet** Hertz Hall, 3 p.m. tickets start at $42

## Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

**Eli Bomboris** jazz-inspired piano improvisations, Hippie Gypsy Cafe $2.50 p.m. free

**The In the Tradition Piano Trio** Lincoln Court Senior Apartments, 3 p.m. $10

**Jazz and R&B Night** Dorsey's Locker, 6-10 p.m. free

**Jim Jazzschool Jazz Quartet** classic & contemporary jazz, Coffee Mill, 3:30 p.m. free

**John Barnes** Actual Café, 5 p.m. free

**La Boeuf Brothers** Jazzschool, 4:30 p.m. $12-$15

**The Kandy Baron Trio** Nick's Lounge, 6:30-9 p.m. free

**Rudy Salcido Big Band** Hermits Elks Lodge Rathskeller, 5-8 p.m. $20, couples $25

**Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra** Zellerbach Hall, 7 p.m. tickets start at $30

## Kids

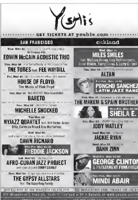
**Inbonet** part of Ashkenaz's Soggy Sundays Kids' Series, Ashkenaz, 3 p.m., $4, $6

## Rock & Pop

**The Story So Far** w/ Man Overboard, Tonight Alive, Citizen, and The Acceptance Scene Freedom, Metro Operahouse, 6 p.m., $18.50

## Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

**Bitch Steps** with monthly live hip-hop and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Wed. Mar 13 An Evening with EDWIN McCAIN ACOUSTIC TRIO
Thu. Mar 14 THE TUBES feat. FEE WAYBILL
Fri. Mar 15 HOUSE OF FLOYD The Music of Pink Floyd
Sat. Mar 16 BARETO
Sun. Mar 17 MICHELLE SHOCKED
Tue Mar 19 NYJAZZ QUARTET feat. Bob Berke, Arsen Ortiz, Carlos de Rosa & Eric McPherson
Wed Mar 20 DAWN RICNARD
Thu-Fri. Mar 21-22 FREDDIE JACKSON
Sat. Mar 23 AFRO-CUBAN JAZZ PROJECT with special guest JIMMY GRANLY
Sun. Mar 24 THE GYPSY ALLSTARS feat. The Gipsy King Family
oakland
Wed. Mar 13 MILES SMILES feat. Wallace Roney, Joey DeFrancesco, Omar Hakim, Darryl Jones & Larry Coryell
Thu. Mar 14 ALTAN
Fri-Sat. Mar 15-16 PONCHO SANCHEZ LATIN JAZZ BAND
Sun. Mar 17 THE MAKEM & SPAIN BROTHERS
Wed-Fri. Mar 20-22 SHEILA E.
Sat. Mar 23 JODY WATLEY
Sun. Mar 24 JACKIE RYAN
Sun. Mar 25 DANN ZINN
Wed-Fri. Mar 27-29 GEORGE CLINTON & PARLIAMENT FUNKADELIC
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**[illegible]** Oakland, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., free

**[illegible]** Stork Bar & Lounge, 9 p.m., free

**[illegible]** w/ DJ Sherbet and DJ Wenz. The Rock Steady, 3-5 p.m., free

### World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

**[illegible]** La Peña Cultural Center, 5 p.m., $15, $22

**Domingo de Rumba** Afro-Cuban rumba performances & dance party, Café Valparaíso, 3:30-6:30 p.m., free

**[illegible] Bhangra** w/ [illegible], Radio, 9:30 p.m., free

**UC Berkeley Department of Music: Improvisation Ensembles** Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 7 p.m., $20.50-$22.50

## SAN FRANCISCO

### Blues, Folk, & Country

**[illegible]** w/ The [illegible] Station, Amnesia, 9 p.m., $10

**[illegible]** Yoshi's San Francisco, 7 p.m., $22, $25

**[illegible] Showcase** w/ [illegible], and Jess, [illegible] & Station of Fox & Woman, Make-Out Room, 7:30 p.m., $8-$10

**[illegible]** Johnny Foley's Irish House, 9 p.m., free

**[illegible]** [illegible] Parkside, 8 p.m., free

### Classical & Opera

**[illegible] Adams** on piano for Sunday champagne brunch, Top of the Mark, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., $45-75 for brunch plus gratuity and tax

**[illegible] and Friends** w/ Samsara Sound System, Café du Nord, 7:30 p.m., $15

**SF Performances Presents Pianist Jonathan Biss** performing Schumann, *Fantasiestücke* interspersed with selections from Janáček's *On an Overgrown Path*

[illegible], 7 p.m., $30-$65

**SF Symphony** performing [illegible] Symphony No. 3, conducted by [illegible] Thomas, Davies Symphony Hall, 2 p.m., $15-$143

### Gospel & Vocal

**Gospel [illegible]** with Future Perfect & rotating guests, 1300 on Fillmore, 11 a.m. & 1 p.m., $30 (brunch)

### Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

**[illegible] & Friends** with Andrew Speight, [illegible], and [illegible], [illegible] Saloon, 5:30-8:30 p.m., $5

### Rock & Pop

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible], [illegible] and Commonwealth, Brick & Mortar Music Hall, 9 p.m., $5-$8

**Earthless** w/ [illegible], Great American Music Hall, 9 p.m., $16, $18

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible], Hotel Utah, 9 p.m., $8

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible] Carnival & Kitten on the Keys, Hemlock Tavern, 6 p.m., $7

**St. Paddy's Day** w/ [illegible], [illegible] 5 p.m., free

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible], Bottom of the Hill, 9 p.m., $10

## MONDAY 18

## EAST BAY

### Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

**[illegible] Jazz Ensemble** w/ [illegible], Yoshi's Oakland, 8 & 10 p.m., $10-$15

### World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

**[illegible] Duo** Caffe Trieste, 7 p.m., free

## SAN FRANCISCO

### Rock & Pop

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible], Great American Music Hall, 9 p.m., $16

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible], and [illegible], [illegible] 9 p.m., $5

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible], Café du Nord, 9 p.m., $8

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible] and Queen of Salt, Monarch, 9 p.m.

## TUESDAY 19

## EAST BAY

### Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

**[illegible]** Yoshi's Oakland, 8 p.m., $[illegible]

**[illegible]** Caffe Trieste, 7 p.m., free

**[illegible]** dinner jazz with guest cabaret singers, The Alley, 5 p.m., free

### Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

**[illegible]** Layover, 9 p.m., free

### World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

**[illegible]** Ashkenaz, 5:30 p.m., $10

## SAN FRANCISCO

### Blues, Folk, & Country

**[illegible]** Café du Nord, 8 p.m., $10

## VENUE DIRECTORY

## EAST BAY

**1-2-3-4 Go! Records** [illegible] St., Oakland, 510-[illegible]

**[illegible]** 477 25th St., Oakland, 510-[illegible]

**[illegible] Art Gallery** [illegible] Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-654-[illegible]

**924 Gilman** 924 Gilman St., Berkeley, 510-525-9926

**[illegible] Bar & Lounge** 492 9th St., Lower Patio, Oakland, 510-444-3347

**Albatross Pub** 1822 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-2473

**The Alley** 3325 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-444-8505

**Amoeba Music** 2455 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-1125

**Art House Gallery & Cultural Center** 2905 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-472-3170

**Ashkenaz** 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-5054

**[illegible] Cafe** 5429 Broadway, Oakland, 510-[illegible]

**The Baltic** 135 Park Pl., Point Richmond, 510-[illegible]

**[illegible] and Bar** 510 17th St., Oakland, 510-444-2266

**[illegible] Studios for The Arts** 1801 Lincoln St., Alameda, 510-[illegible]

**The Bistro** 1001 B St., Hayward, 510-886-8525

**Cafe Van Kleef** 1621 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-763-7711

**Caffe Trieste** 2500 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-5198

**Club 1220** 1220 Pine St., Walnut Creek, 925-938-4550

**Club 21** 2111 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-268-9425

**Club [illegible]** 428 3rd St., Oakland, 510-[illegible]

**Coffee Mill** 3363 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-465-4224

**Conga Lounge** 5422 College Ave., Oakland, 510-463-2681

**Disco Volante** 347 14th St., Oakland, 510-[illegible]

**Eagles Hall** 2305 Alameda Ave., Alameda, 415-[illegible]

**Easy Lounge** 3255 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-338-4811

**Eli's Mile High Club** 3629 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland, 510-[illegible]

**Era Art Bar and Lounge** 19 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible]

**[illegible]** 1[illegible] Broadway, Oakland, 510-[illegible]

**First Congregational Church** 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley, 510-848-3696

**Forbidden Island Tiki Lounge** 1304 Lincoln Ave., Alameda, 510-749-0332

**Fox Theater** 1807 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible]

**Freight & Salvage** 2020 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-644-2020

**Hertz Hall** UC Berkeley campus, Bancroft Way at College Ave., Berkeley, 510-642-9988

**High Street Station** 1303 High St., Alameda, 510-[illegible]

**[illegible] Paradise Club** [illegible] St., Alameda, 510-865-3225

**Ivy Room** 860 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-526-5888

**Jazzschool** 2087 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-845-5373

**Jewish Community Center of the East Bay** 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley, 510-848-0237

**[illegible] Patrick's** 1[illegible] Park St., Alameda, 510-[illegible]

**[illegible] Saloon & [illegible] Garden** 1222 Park St., Alameda, 510-[illegible]

**Jupiter** 2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-8277

**[illegible]** 522 2nd St., Oakland, 510-444-[illegible]

**Kingman's Lucky Lounge** 3332 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-465-5464

**La Peña Cultural Center** 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2568

**Laney College Theater** 900 Fallon St., Oakland, 510-[illegible]

**The Layover** 1517 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-834-1517

**[illegible]** 2272 Telegraph Ave., Oakland

**Lost Weekend Lounge** 2320 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, 510-523-4700

**Lounge 3411** 3411 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-[illegible]

**Luka's Taproom & Lounge** 2221 Broadway, Oakland, 510-451-4677

**Mills College** 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-[illegible]

**Missouri Lounge** 2600 San Pablo Ave., [illegible], 510-[illegible]

**New Karibbean City** 1408 Webster St., Oakland, 510-[illegible]

**The New Parish** 579 18th St., Oakland, 510-444-[illegible]

**The Night Light** 311 Broadway, Oakland, 510-[illegible]

**[illegible]** 5[illegible] 12th St., Oakland, 510-[illegible]

**Oakland Metro Operahouse** 630 3rd St., Oakland, 510-763-1146

**ORACLE Arena** 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland, 510-569-2121

**Paramount Theatre** 2025 Broadway, Oakland, 510-465-6400

**Piedmont Piano Company** 1728 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, 510-547-8188

**Quinn's Lighthouse** 1951 Embarcadero Cove, Oakland, 510-536-2050

**Radio** 435 13th St., Oakland, 510-451-2889

**Rhythmix Cultural Works** 2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda, 510-865-5060

**The Rock Steady** 1745 San Pablo Ave., Oakland

**[illegible]** 1700 [illegible] Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible]

**Ruby Room** 132 14th St., Oakland, 510-444-7224

**Saddle Rack** 42011 Boscell Rd., Fremont

**[illegible] Lounge** 341 13th St., Oakland, 510-[illegible]

**[illegible] Amphitheatre** One Amphitheatre Pkwy., Mountain View, 650-967-3000

**[illegible]** 2424 Lincoln Ave., Alameda, 510-[illegible]

**Starry Plough** 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-2082

**Stork Club** 2330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-444-6174

**Subterranean Art House** 2179 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-[illegible]

**[illegible]** 464 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-[illegible]

**Uptown** 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-451-8100

**[illegible]** UC Berkeley, Berkeley, 510-642-4290

**White Horse Inn** 6551 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-3820

**Yoshi's** 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland, 510-238-9200

**Zellerbach Hall** UC Berkeley, Berkeley, 510-642-9988

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WED 3/13
JAMES NASH & THE NOMADS
FEATURING REED MATHIS, TREVOR GARROD, AND ERNEST CARTER

THU 3/14
THE LAWLANDS
THE DISPOSITIONAL, MAGIC FIGHT

FRI 3/15
BRAD BROOKS
JAY TRAVER, [illegible], BROOK APPLEWOOD

TUE 3/19
BENT
LOVE AXE, HOT DAMNED SPOT

WED 3/20
IVAN AND ALYOSHA
[illegible]

THU 3/21
THEO KATZMAN
JOEY DOSIK, [illegible]

FRI 3/22 & SAT 3/23
KERMIT RUFFINS AND THE BBQ SWINGERS
BILLY IUSO AND RESTLESS NATIVES, [illegible], W/ SPECIAL GUESTS, NEW ORLEANS CUISINE FROM KERMIT'S TREME SPEAKEASY

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UPCOMING SHOWS

WEDNESDAY 3/13
BELLS ATLAS
THE [illegible]

FRIDAY 3/15
TAMMY'S CAMARO
THE [illegible]

SATURDAY 3/16
BANG DATA,
CANDELARIA
DOS FOUR
DJ [illegible]

[illegible]DAY 3/21
KERMIT RUFFINS
AND THE BBQ SWINGERS

FRIDAY 3/22
HAR MAR SUPERSTAR
THE VIRGINS
[illegible]

TUESDAY 3/26
ICEAGE
[illegible]

THURSDAY 3/28
INEFFABLE MUSIC GROUP PRESENTS
ZION I & THE GROUCH & ELIGH
DJ FRESH

WEDNESDAY 4/3
J BOOG
[illegible]

WEDNESDAY [illegible]
THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES

TUES 4/16 + WEDS 4/17
JAPANDROIDS
CLOUD NOTHINGS

FRIDAY 4/19
THE MOTHER HIPS

SATURDAY 4/20
ALBOROSIE

MONDAY 4/22
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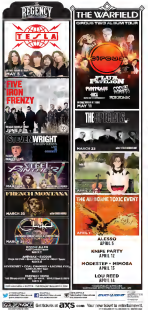

# C&C

### Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

**SFJAZZ Quartet** Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 p.m. $22

### Rock & Pop

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible] and [illegible], Bottom of the Hill, 9 p.m. $10

**[illegible]** w/ Love Axe and the Tortured Soul, Brick & Mortar Music Hall, 9 p.m. $5-$8

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible] and Luke Sweeney, Hotel Utah, 9 p.m., $8

**[illegible]** Park Chalet Brewery, 6:30 p.m. free

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible] and The Late [illegible], [illegible], 9 p.m. $5

**The Saturday Dates and Oceanography** 50 Mason Social House, 8 p.m., free

**[illegible]** w/ Winter Kids and [illegible], Hemlock Tavern, 8:30 p.m. $7

### Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible] TBA, Boom Boom Room, 9:30 p.m. $10

### World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaetón

**Bajofondo** w/ DJ Luis Medina, Bimbo's 365 Club, 8 p.m. $35

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible] and DJ [illegible], The Independent, 9 p.m., $25

**[illegible]** w/ The [illegible], Boom Boom Room, 8:30 p.m. $8

## WEDNESDAY 20

## EAST BAY

### Blues, Folk, & Country

**James [illegible]** Cafe Van Kleef, 9:30 p.m., $TBA

**[illegible]** Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $20.50, $22.50

**[illegible]** Albatross Pub, 9 p.m. free

### Classical & Opera

**[illegible] Quartet of the Oakland East Bay Symphony** [illegible], 8 p.m. $5

### Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

**[illegible]** [illegible], 7 p.m., free

**[illegible]** Townhouse Bar & Grill, 7:30 p.m., free

**[illegible]** [illegible], The Alley, 8 p.m. free

**[illegible]** [illegible] Cafe, 6:30 p.m., free

**[illegible]** Yoshi's Oakland, 8 & 10 p.m., $20-$26

### Rock & Pop

**Acid Fest** w/ [illegible], [illegible], and [illegible], 1-2-3-4 Go! Records, 7 p.m. $6

**Anti-Flag: 20 Year Anniversary Tour #1** playing songs from the albums *Die For the Government, A New Kind of Army, Mobilize, The People or The Gun, and The General Strike*, w/ [illegible], Oakland Metro Operahouse, 8 p.m. $15, $18

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible], Fox Theater, 8 p.m. $31.50

**The [illegible]** w/ [illegible], [illegible], and [illegible], Stork Club, 9 p.m. $8

**[illegible]** [illegible], 6 p.m. $12

**More Listings Online**

Get info about hundreds of musical events at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

### World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaetón

**Caribbean Night** with Reggae Flash and DJ [illegible], [illegible], 11 p.m., free

## SAN FRANCISCO

### Blues, Folk, & Country

**The Blackberry [illegible]** w/ [illegible] & the [illegible] Boys, Hotel Utah, 8:30 p.m. $8-$10

**[illegible] Showcase** [illegible], 9 & 10 p.m. $12

### Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

**[illegible]** in the lounge, Yoshi's San Francisco, 6:30 p.m., free

### Rock & Pop

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible], Great American Music Hall, 8 p.m., $16

**[illegible]** w/ The [illegible], [illegible], 9 p.m., $5-$8

**[illegible]** w/ Smoke and Branches, Brick & Mortar Music Hall, 9 p.m., $10-$12

**[illegible]** w/ The Y Axes and [illegible], Bottom of the Hill, 9 p.m. $8

**[illegible]** Cafe du Nord, 9 p.m. $12

**[illegible] Things** w/ John [illegible], [illegible], and DJ [illegible], Elbo Room, 9 p.m. $5

**Trapped Under Ice** w/ Soul Search and Caged Animal, Thee Parkside, 9 p.m. $10

**[illegible]** w/ [illegible] and [illegible], Hemlock Tavern, 6:30 p.m. $5

### Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

**Dawn Richard** Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 p.m., $20, $22

**Soul Train Revival** w/ [illegible], Boom Boom Room, 9:30 p.m. $5

### World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaetón

**[illegible] Night** w/ DJ [illegible], Bissap Baobab, 10 p.m., $5

*Submissions for music listings should be e-mailed to Clubs@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Clubs Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA, 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.*

## VENUE DIRECTORY

## SAN FRANCISCO

**50 Mason Social House** 50 Mason St., 415-433-5050

**103 Harriet** 103 Harriet St., 415-264-[illegible]

**111 Minna Gallery** 111 Minna St., 415-974-1719

**222 Hyde** 222 Hyde St., 415-440-0222

**330 Ritch** 330 Ritch St., 415-541-9574

**1015 Folsom** 1015 Folsom St., 415-431-1200

**Amnesia** 853 Valencia St., 415-970-0012

**Amoeba Music** 1855 Haight St., 415-831-1200

**Audium** 1616 Bush St., 415-771-1616

**[illegible] & Lounge** 1 Tillman Pl., 415-[illegible]

**[illegible]** [illegible] Columbus St., 415-[illegible]

**Beach Chalet** 1000 Great Highway, 415-386-8439

**Beauty Bar** 2299 Mission St., 415-285-0323

**Bimbo's 365 Club** 1025 Columbus Ave., 415-474-0365

**Biscuits & Blues** 401 Mason St., 415-292-2583

**Boom Boom Room** 1601 Fillmore St., 415-673-8000

**Bottom of the Hill** 1233 17th St., 415-621-4455

**Brick & Mortar Music Hall** 1710 Mission St., 415-800-8782

**Bruno's** 2389 Mission St., 415-643-[illegible]

**Cafe du Nord** 2170 Market St., 415-861-5016

**Cafe International** 508 Haight St., 415-552-7390

**[illegible]** 1190 Folsom St., 415-431-3332

**The Cellar** 685 Sutter St., 415-441-5678

**[illegible] Theater** [illegible] Florida St., 415-[illegible]

**Club Fugazi** 678 Green St., 415-421-4222

**Davies Symphony Hall** 201 Van Ness Ave., 415-864-6000

**DNA Lounge** 375 11th St., 415-626-1409

**Dogpatch Saloon** 2496 3rd St., 415-643-8592

**Edinburgh Castle** 950 Geary St., 415-885-4074

**El [illegible]** [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]

**El Rio** 3158 Mission St., 415-282-3325

**Elbo Room** 647 Valencia St., 415-552-7788

**The EndUp** 401 6th St., 415-646-0999

**The Fillmore** 1805 Geary Blvd., 415-346-6000

**Great American Music Hall** 859 O'Farrell St., 415-885-0750

**Hemlock Tavern** 1131 Polk St., 415-923-0923

**Herbst Theater** 401 Van Ness Ave., 415-392-4400

**Hotel Utah** 500 4th St., 415-546-6300

**The Independent** 628 Divisadero St., 415-771-1421

**Johnny Foley's Irish House** 243 O'Farrell St., 415-954-0777

**The Knockout** 3223 Mission St., 415-550-6994

**Madrone Art Bar** 500 Divisadero St., 415-241-0202

**Make-Out Room** 3225 22nd St., 415-647-2888

**Mezzanine** 444 Jessie St., 415-625-8880

**Mighty** 119 Utah St., 415-762-0151

**Milk Bar** 1840 Haight St., 415-387-6455

**Monarch** 101 6th St.

**The [illegible]** [illegible] West Portal Ave., 415-[illegible]

**Noe Valley Ministry** 1021 Sanchez St., 415-454-5238

**Park Chalet Brewery** 1000 Great Highway, 415-386-8439

**[illegible]** [illegible] St., 415-646-[illegible]

**Public Works** 161 Erie St., 415-932-0955

**Red Devil Lounge** 1695 Polk St., 415-921-1695

**The Regency Ballroom** 1300 Van Ness Ave., [illegible]

**[illegible] Lounge** [illegible] 20th St., 415-[illegible]

**Rickshaw Stop** 155 Fell St., 415-861-2011

**The Riptide** 3639 Taraval St., 415-681-8433

**Rockit Room** 406 Clement St., 415-387-6343

**[illegible]** 222 Mason St., 415-394-1189

**Ruby Skye** 420 Mason St., 415-693-0777

**San Francisco Conservatory of Music** 50 Oak St., 415-503-6275

**Skip's Tavern** 453 Cortland Ave., 415-282-3458

**Skylark** 3089 16th St., 415-621-9294

**Slim's** 333 11th St., 415-522-0333

**[illegible]** 2925 16th St., 415-[illegible]

**Space 550** 550 Barneveld Ave., 415-550-8286

**The Stud** 399 9th St., 415-863-6623

**Sub/Mission Gallery** 2183 Mission St., 415-255-7227

**SupperClub** 657 Harrison St., 415-348-0900

**Swig Bar** 561 Geary St., 415-931-7292

**Temple** 540 Howard St., 415-978-9942

**Thee Parkside** 1600 17th St., 415-252-1330

**Top of the [illegible]** [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]

**[illegible]** [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]

**[illegible] Lounge** 443 Broadway St., 415-[illegible]

**The Warfield** 982 Market St., 415-775-7722

**Yoshi's San Francisco** 1330 Fillmore St., 415-655-5600

# DJ & DANCE

## THURSDAY 14

### EAST BAY

**Body Language** w/ DJs D-Anne and Dama spinning '80s and '90s funk, pop, R&B and hip-hop, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 5 p.m., free
**Fam Fever** w/ Sonora Dice Dream spinning reggae & dancehall, Shashamane Restaurant, 10 p.m., free
**Delicious Thursdays** dance, 10 p.m., free
**DJ Adill** spinning eclectic soul candy, Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 5 p.m., free
**DJ Dized** Sugar, 9 p.m., free
**DJ Night** DJs spinning funkadelic pop, mind-blowing rock, & urban hip-hop, Ka's Restaurant, 9:30 p.m., free
**DJ Trick** spinning lounge, Lost Weekend Lounge, 5 p.m.-2 a.m., free
**Ho Ink** w/ DJs Flee Chata & Sane Points, The Missouri Lounge, 10 p.m., free
**Hippy Shmoket and Crew** The Stork Sundry, 10 p.m., free
**No Deposits Hotel Party w/ DJ M.A.M** The Layover, 10 p.m., free
**Riff Raff** indie pop, mash-ups, new wave, Radio, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., free
**Salty Dogs** w/ DJ P Sponge and M Wilt, The Layover, 6-10 p.m., free
**Tasty** ladies night w/ DJ Mo Josiah spinning hip-hop & R&B, Club 21, 9 p.m., $12-$15
**Temple** w/ DJ Matthew Baker spinning global house, some hits, White Horse Inn, 10 p.m.-midnight, free
**Ultra Sound** DJs Funk Side Dial and Willie Mack play music & dub, board games, Somar Bar & Lounge, 9 p.m., free
**Vybz Thursdays** w/ DJ Ras Sa and guests spinning roots reggae and dancehall, Continental Club, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., $8
**Pacific Drums Sessions** featuring DJs Chris Stand and Cool, Bench and Bar, 5 p.m., free

### SAN FRANCISCO

**USBX** DJs Damon Jules, Dangerous Dan, & Melting Dot spin '80s & rare wave, Cat Club, 9 p.m., free before 9:30 p.m., $6
**Afrolicious** w/ DJ Pleasuremaker and Señor Oz, Elbo Room, 9:30 p.m., $8
**Bingopolis by Nano** DJ Russ Ale during Bingo, The Knockout, 7:30-10 p.m., free
**Pan Internationale** Bollywood, Bangla, Filipino freakbeat, Cambodian rocks, & more, The Knockout, 10 p.m., free
**Hip-Hop Night** DJs Wisdom and Matt Jocelyn spin hip-hop, hyphy, R&B, & more, The Cafe, 10 p.m., free
**Stand Roots** DJ Damon & special guests spin funk, soul, house & more, Tunnel Top, 10 p.m., free
**Kis Cleveland & Chris** spinning funky Stand & underground hip-hop, Swig Bar, 9 p.m., free
**International** w/ Latin People and Pacific Mezzanine, 9 p.m., $20
**Figure** DNA Lounge, 9 p.m., $20-$25
**Fog in the Bar** Monarch, 9 p.m., free
**NightLife** Weekly event for Adults with cocktails, craft fairs, workshops, science exhibits, and roaming Bazaar guests. This week's feature is Jens Lekman w/ Geoffrey O'Connor and Ultra the DJ, California Academy of Sciences, 6-10 p.m., $12
**Pacific Mindset Thaw** featuring DJ Leydis, Kalae All Day & Nina Gomez, Eve Lounge, 5 p.m., free
**Vibe** rotating DJs, The EndUp, 10 p.m., $17
**Honey Rave Day 1** w/ Art Department, Damian Lazarus, Seth Troxler and Guy Gerber, Public Works, 9 p.m., $48 for 3 nights
**Rebel Rave** w/ Art Department, Damian Lazarus, Seth Troxler and Guy Gerber, Public Works, 9 p.m., $48 for three night weekend party
**Rebel Rave** w/ Art Department and Damian Lazarus, Public Works, 9 p.m., $15
**Tropicana Night** DJs Leo Bustamante, Sr. Saenz and guests spinning Salsa, Cumbia, Reggaeton and Merengue, Madrone Art Bar, 5 p.m., free

## FRIDAY 15

### EAST BAY

**99 Sessions** Paso Velvets, 9:30 p.m., $5
**Duna 21** w/ DJs spinning Latin music, Duna 21, 9 p.m., $8-$15
**DJ Dirt** DJ rising say 60 series, soul, and hip-hop, White Horse Inn, 9 p.m., free
**DJ Night** DJs spinning funkadelic pop, mind-blowing rock, & urban hip-hop, Ka's Restaurant, 9:30 p.m., free
**DJ Willie Stand** Dream Bar & Lounge, 5 p.m., free
**Global Urbans** relaxing duo spinning hip-hop, R&B, and reggae, New Karibbean City, 9 p.m., $1 admission until 1 a.m.
**Friday Night Salsa** w/ guest DJs spinning salsa, La Estrellita Cafe, 10 p.m., $8
**Friday Nite Jams** w/ DJ Supa K, Fibres, 10 p.m., $8
**Happy Hours** w/ DJ spinning punk rock, indie, & noise rock, The Missouri Lounge, 6-10 p.m., free
**Hip-Hop United Music** w/ Dream, Club 1220, 9 p.m., $8
**Kaiyero Shock** w/ DJ Kay Wonder, Dream Bar & Lounge, 9 p.m., free, $5 after 11 p.m.
**Latin Explosion** DJ Jorge Salgado spins salsa, merengue, Pacific Spanish pop, & house, Bench and Bar, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., $8-$15
**Shindig** weekly w/ rotating DJ series, Arinsbo Motel, 6-9 p.m., free
**Mighty Irie** DJs Rocker-T, Irie Dizzy, and Smoke-Free spin reggae, dancehall and hip-hop, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 10 p.m., $5 before 11 p.m., $10 after
**Old School** hip-hop and funk, dance, 9 p.m., free
**Dream Night** w/ DJ Gianni spinning reggae, soca, salsa & R&B, Island Paradise Club, 10 p.m., ladies free before 11:30 p.m.
**Rock Rebels** Dream beats '60s pop night, Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 p.m., free
**The Hotel** with DJ Crasson, The Layover, 6 p.m.
**Mango Modes** w/ live beat sets by Spider (Lasering Records), Oneworld (All City), Spreeghost (Astro Nautico), Paisley (Sn/Thirty Records), Aly (Wert), and Dreeven (EasyStep), The Legionnaire Saloon, 9 p.m., free
**Sultry Fridays** DJ Lash & Fat Rob spin R&B & soul, Kimball's Carnival, 9 p.m., $8
**Womany Positive** w/ special guest DJs, The Rock Steady, 10 p.m., free
**Voodoo Dance Fridays** featuring DJ Toopic, spinning jamaican, soca, zouke, salsa, merengue, dancehall reggae, Womany Roots music, & more, Conga Lounge, 10 p.m.

### SAN FRANCISCO

**Ali Shaheed Muhammad (A Tribe Called Quest)** w/ DJ Shamsuuf, Mighty, 10 p.m., $15
**Drill** DJs Morale, Kaoss, & Shane King spin electro, booty bass, trunk, swampy breaks, hyphy, hip-hop, & party, Madrone Art Bar, 9 p.m., $5 after 10 p.m.
**DJ Danny hip-hop**, spinning rock, hip-hop, new wave, R&B, '80s, dubs & pop, Swig Bar, 9 p.m., free
**Eric Sharman and Miranda** El Rio, 6 p.m., free
**Fedonaise** El Rio, 10 p.m., free
**Flashback Friday** DJs Scotty Fox, Derrick F, MC & Chicken Scratch spin '80s and hip-hop, The Cellar, 10 p.m., free before 11 p.m., $10 after
**Fridays at the Full Stand** w/ DJs Carmen and Miranda spinning soul, funk, and world, El Rio, 6-9 p.m., free
**Get Freaky** w/ Ja-Jaa-Kae, Booty Trap Room, Church, and more, $15 before midnight, 10 p.m., $20-$25
**Gloriadisco** relaxing DJs, The EndUp, 11 p.m., $15, free before midnight
**Greg Wilson** w/ DJ M3 and Anthony Mansfield, Monarch, 9 p.m., $10-$20
**Gotta Tight** w/ DJs Vinnie Esparza, Jenny Drewer and Ace Spacedash, Amnesia, 10 p.m.
**Loose Joints** w/ DJ Tom Spider and guests, Make-Out Room, 10 p.m., $5
**Michael Mayer** w/ Jordan & Sergio, Mezzanine, 9 p.m., $16-$8
**Mighty Pacific** Mighty, 10 p.m., $5
**Night of Mad Henge** w/ DJs Primo, and Badass DJs spinning dirty rock 'n' roll and honkin' series, The Knockout, 10 p.m., $5
**Paris Cinema International** DJs Soggs and Marco spin reggae, dancehall, hip-hop, soul, & R&B, Lelah Barnes, 9 p.m., $5
**The People's Party** w/ old school hip-hop and Fuse Friday Late hosted by the Wrecking Crew DJs, El Rio, 9:30 p.m., free
**Dope Tinder** w/ Cosmic Kids, Public Works, 9:30 p.m., $10-$20
**Shark Bomb** w/ DJs Brew, Stee, Tomas Diablo, Christine Brian, & Lucky spinning indie, electro, Shindig and prog, Cat Club, 9:30 p.m., free before 10 p.m., $5
**SAME** w/ live performers plus DJ Rex Weinstein spinning soul, soul, French pop, & disco, The Knockout, 10 p.m., free
**Velocity** dance party hosted by Parker Day w/ rotating DJs, Asia SF, 10 p.m., $8
**Sound** w/ DJs K-Bug, Waria, Sanforio, Dweity & House Underground SF, 5 p.m., $5

## SATURDAY 16

### EAST BAY

**Alt Productions & Moonlight DJs** spinning R&B & hip-hop, Forum, 10 p.m., free
**Outlaw** w/ Miles Crown, DJ Abiding and Luke K, The Rock Steady, 10 p.m., free
**Disco Demon** w/ DJs Dave and Lifeline spinning disco, electro, italo, and guilty pleasures, White Horse Inn, 9 p.m., $5-$7
**Dope Shindig** w/ DJ Rom and guests spinning hip-hop & R&B, Shindig and Bar, 9 p.m., $8 before 11 p.m.
**Vintage Saturdays** followed by hip-hop & house at midnight, Club 1220, 8:30 p.m.-midnight, $5
**Dancehall Saturdays** w/ Action Stand spinning reggae, Shindig & hip-hop.

## PICK

### Smart Bomb

Local beatmaker collective Secret Sidewalk runs a cassette label and collaborates with street artists, and now it will add a monthly party to its résumé when it launches Smart Bomb on Friday Mar. 15, at the newly opened Uptown venue Legionnaire Saloon (2272 Telegraph Ave., Oakland). Guest and resident producers will play live sets of an improvised style of ambient, instrumental hip-hop, combining samples from different songs using music production software or records and a tape deck. Headliners include respected producers Dublee, Devonwho, and Spare Ghost, the latter a young star in the Oakland beat community who composes tracks on his laptop while commuting on *AC Transit*, incorporating the sound of falling rain and other environmental elements into his beats. With guests RuffDraft, Aly and Dreeven, and residents DJ Centipede, Mike Boo, Amolie Gorma, and Puzzl3. 9 p.m., free before 10:30 p.m., $5. *LegionnaireSaloon.com*
— *Whitney Phaneuf*

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SELECTOR: DJ DELON & UNKLE FUN 9PM
THURSDAY MAR. 14
[illegible] Allen Geiger [illegible] down on [illegible] always soulful [illegible] welcomes in reggae [illegible] Unkle Fun [illegible] for long [illegible] classics.
soundcloud.com/djdelon
facebook.com/[illegible]

SOCKET 9PM
FRIDAY MAR. 15
[illegible] Hammond organ-powered [illegible] groove machine who [illegible] sounded a funk [illegible] good with [illegible] and [illegible] Socket's [illegible] Martin and [illegible] with their [illegible]
socketfunk.com

BRIAN HO TRIO 9PM
SATURDAY MAR. 16
[illegible] organ [illegible] guitarist [illegible] Organic [illegible] Keys (Ray Charles, Ahmad Jamal [illegible] and Oscar Pangilinan)
brianho.net

WOOD-FIRED PIZZA • [illegible] ON TAP

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live jazz featuring Ron Crotty, bassist from the original Dave Brubeck 4
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WE BECAME OWLS
with [illegible] + PAIGE & THE THOUSAND
SATURDAY 3/16 DOORS AT 7PM
MARK GROWDEN TRIO
with DANGER BRAND
NEXT WEEK
3/20 [illegible]
3/21 [illegible]
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## D[illegible]D

The Avenue 9 p.m. free

DJ Night DJs spinning Radiohead, pop, mind-blowing rock & urban hip-hop. [illegible] Restaurant, 9:30 p.m. free

Dubain Dragon w/ [illegible] and Emby spinning hip-hop, indie pop, punk, [illegible] & funk. The Missouri Lounge. 10 p.m. free

Lookout Weekend DJ Rubberband Girl spins [illegible] of the eighties and nineties freestyle, pop, hip hop, R&B and more. Bar Three Fifty-Five. 10 p.m. free

Magic Milk [illegible] DJ [illegible] & guests host genre-surfing [illegible]. Kingman's Lucky Lounge. 9 p.m. [illegible]

Shockwave with DJs [illegible] Blood and Mon Kane. The Layover. 9 p.m. free

Smoove Saturdays [illegible] the [illegible] club [illegible] hip-hop, neo-soul, and world flavors. Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 10 p.m. $5 before 11 p.m., $10 after.

Thump w/ DJ [illegible] spinning mashups, funk, house, and soul. Somar Bar & Lounge. 9 p.m. $5

Vinyl Outlet w/ DJ Jason Willie spinning punk, deathrock, [illegible] punk, and [illegible] gems. Ruby Room. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. free

## SAN FRANCISCO

5th [illegible] and Rapsody w/ Dnuovo, [illegible] and DJ Sake One. The Independent. 9 p.m. $27

[illegible] [illegible] Lounge. 9 p.m. $10-$18

Bass Tac Presents McRoweligan [illegible] Public Works. 8:30 p.m. $TBA

[illegible] Seduction w/ DJ Shag spinning the hottest Bay Area club hits. Below's. 10 p.m. free before 11 p.m. with voucher

DJ [illegible] Swig Bar. 9 p.m. free

DJ Forest Jonah [illegible]. 9 p.m. free

El Superritmo! w/ DJs spinning cumbia, [illegible] salsa, [illegible], and world dance-pop. Make-Out Room. 10 p.m. $5

Outline [illegible] hip-hop, soul, funk, & reggae. Laurie. 9 p.m. free

[illegible] Balboa Publicity [illegible] w/ DJ [illegible]. El Rio. 9 p.m. $8?

Jellyfish lesbian party w/ DJs spinning '80s, new wave & hip-hop. Cat Club. 9 p.m. free

[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible]. Mezzanine. 9 p.m. $20, $30

Love & Light w/ [illegible] & Freddy Todd. [illegible] and The Pier. Mighty. 10 p.m. $12.50-$15

O.K. Hole w/ DJs [illegible] Ralph Slogan, [illegible] and [illegible] live band. Amnesia. 9 p.m. $TBA

Push [illegible] International DJs Sagal and [illegible] reggae, dancehall, hip-hop, soul, R&B. Little Baobab. 9 p.m. $5

Pura Saturdays w/ [illegible] the [illegible] Lutz [illegible] and more. [illegible]. 9:30 p.m.-3 a.m. $20

Saturday Night Soul Party with DJs Lucky, Paul Paul and Phengren Gordon spinning '60s Soul 45's. Elbo Room. 10 p.m. $5-$10

Seduction w/ DJs spinning hip-hop and club hits. The Cellar. 9 p.m. [illegible]

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Soundsystem [illegible] and Single [illegible]. Monarch. 10 p.m. $10-$15

The Dome w/ DJs [illegible] Nicole [illegible], [illegible] & guests spinning music, [illegible] & mineral. The Grotto. 10 p.m. $10

## SUNDAY 17

## EAST BAY

The Jam w/ [illegible] and DJ B Sheep. Era Art Bar and Lounge. 9 p.m.-1:30 a.m. free

DJ Ready Kingman's Lucky Lounge. 9 p.m. free

[illegible] Sundays w/ [illegible] and [illegible]. Dragon Forge. 2-8 p.m. free

King of Kings Jamaican Sundays spinning reggae, dancehall, and Kenya rock with resident DJ Smoky. The New Parish. 10 p.m. [illegible] free for Mossi Roots. [illegible]

[illegible] Songs DJ [illegible] spins deathrock, [illegible] metal, punk, hardcore, sludge, shoegaze, and more. Ruby Room. 10 p.m. free

Uncle Fun's Ska Sundays DJs spin ska, rocksteady & early reggae. The Honey Tonky Club. 7 p.m. free

## SAN FRANCISCO

Dub [illegible] w/ the Sea and [illegible] and guest Dub Snake. Elbo Room. 9 p.m. $6

Holding Firm DJ [illegible] & guests spin reggae [illegible] Underground SF. 9 p.m. free before 10:30 p.m., $6

Honey Sundays w/ Honey Soundsystem DJs spinning [illegible] music. Paradise Lounge. 8 p.m. $3 after 11 p.m.

Roots, Yaw Shareroots w/ [illegible] the Edge & Dance [illegible] and more. Monarch. 7 p.m. $10

Sunday Jamaican w/ DJs Adrian [illegible], [illegible] Bay-Side, [illegible], [illegible] Cuevo, [illegible], Fittysevy, [illegible], Neil Daily, & more. The Cellar. 8 a.m.-8 p.m. $10

Sweaterfunk! [illegible] w/ Jonty grooves. The Knockout. 10 p.m. free

## MONDAY 18

## EAST BAY

Caribbean Nights w/ DJs Sog and Lobo Brown spinning world reggae, Latin, and afro-hop. Somar Bar & Lounge. 10 p.m. free

Jamaican Mondays The Layover. 8 p.m. free

Soul Selector w/ DJ [illegible] [illegible] 8 p.m. free

Three-Day Weekend DJ [illegible] spins local [illegible]. Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 9 p.m. free

Underground Lounge psycho '60s & [illegible] Ruby Room. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. free

## SAN FRANCISCO

Death, Guilt w/ [illegible] DJs spinning gothic, industrial, synthpop, [illegible] and weird stuff. DNA Lounge. 9:30 p.m. $3, $5

DJ Nako spinning classic soul, rare grooves, & down-tempo. Swig Bar. 9 p.m. free

I Heart Monday DJ [illegible] & guests spin hits and remixes from the '70s to today. Underground SF. 10 p.m. free

Motion classic soul, funk, hip-hop, reggae. [illegible], Afrobeat, & more. Little Baobab. 10 p.m. $3

[illegible] Lovers w/ DJ Orlando, plus lessons. Cafe Cocomo. 7:30 p.m., $5 lessons $12

Jamaican Vinyl w/ revolving lineup of DJs spin oldies, punk, psych, country, and hip-hop. [illegible]. 9 p.m. 1 a.m.

Skylarking w/ DJs Mr. Lucky & Bastrak spinning roots, dub, dancehall and reggae. Skylark. 9:30 p.m. free

Spliff Sessions w/ DJs [illegible], Kung Fu Chris, & C-Minus spinning funk, soul, hip-hop, [illegible] boogie [illegible], Lobo and Afrobeat. Tunnel Top. 10 p.m. free

## TUESDAY 19

## EAST BAY

Jamaican Music Night plus and dancing. Club [illegible]. 8 p.m. free

DJ Night DJs spinning Radiohead pop, mind-blowing rock, & urban hip-hop. Kip's [illegible]. 9:30 p.m. free

DJ Wooly spinning punk. Last Weekend Lounge. 9 p.m. 2 a.m. [illegible]

Funky Weekend w/ DJ Sebasta [illegible] spinning funk, reggae, afrobeat, Seduction, balkan beat, dirty south, grime, 90's hip-hop, salsa, and dub. The Layover. 10 p.m. free

[illegible] Somar Bar & Lounge. 9 p.m. $TBA

Soul Funk DJ Jason G and rotating guests spinning reggae, Seduction and African rhythms. Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 9 p.m. free

Stay Punk! w/ DJ Overload spinning indie punk, hardcore, & metal. The Missouri Lounge. 10 p.m. [illegible]

## SAN FRANCISCO

Dress Up Fish Warner Shadow DJs [illegible] [illegible] spin reggae, Seduction hip-hop, & [illegible]. Free before 11 p.m. [illegible] 10 p.m. $10

[illegible] Roots & Flow spinning Balkan [illegible] beats, underground hip-hop, & silky grooves. Swig Bar. 9 p.m. free

Lost & Found: Soul & Sweet '60s Soul Make-Out Room. 9:30 p.m. free

Old School Hip-Hop & SF Radios Little Baobab. 9 p.m. $3

Jamaican drum 'n' bass w/ DJs [illegible] [illegible] & [illegible] plus MC [illegible] Underground SF. 9 p.m. $5

The Punk Rock Uniform Feature rotating live bands [illegible] & [illegible] spinning punk rock at the Argus Lounge. The Knockout. 10 p.m. $6

Roots w/ [illegible] & Seduction and [illegible] Monarch. 10 p.m. $10

Soonarit w/ DJs [illegible] Sandeh, [illegible] & guests spinning late '80s and early '90s hip-hop. The Fella. 10 p.m. free

Understanding Bass w/ [illegible] DJs spinning bass [illegible]. The Knockout. 6-9 p.m. free

## WEDNESDAY 20

## EAST BAY

The Jet Set w/ DJ [illegible] and special guests. Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 9 p.m. free

The [illegible] Off Roots, Day Hip-Hop w/ DJs spinning hip-hop. Club 21. 9 p.m. $6-$15

[illegible] Sandwich w/ DJ [illegible]. The Layover. 6 p.m. free

Shoobwave Latin cowboy night w/ host Valerie Roach and [illegible]. 7 p.m. $8-$10

Bellum [illegible] DJs Soul [illegible] and [illegible] and special guests spin hip-hop, Sing house, broken beat, uptempo dancehall, reggae, and [illegible] rhythms. Somar Bar & Lounge. 9 p.m. free

Punk Steady Wednesdays The Punk Steady. 10 p.m. free

Tradewreck! DJ Terrible Timmy spins everything from doo wop to punk rock from the '50s through the '90s. Merchant's [illegible] 10 p.m.-2 a.m. free

## SAN FRANCISCO

Bellum DJ [illegible] Santos, & [illegible] spin [illegible], Latin, Afrobeat, & more. Wish. 10 p.m. free

Mixed Mess Wednesdays w/ DJs Ruby P Hyce, [illegible] spinning hip-hop, top 40, reggae, R&B & more. Milk. 10 p.m. free

DJ Sammie spinning chilled-out beats, new school soul, underground hip-hop, & stripped-down Afro-fusion. Swig Bar. 9 p.m. free

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[illegible] Punk [illegible] The Knockout. 6-9 p.m. free

Mixtape [illegible] DJs Strategy, Jacee, [illegible] spin [illegible] hip-hop, reggae, funk & soul. Skylark. 10 p.m. $5

SabaDub w/ rotating DJs. [illegible]. 9 p.m. free Roots. 10 p.m. $5

Soul Pleasures Monarch. 9 p.m. P.12 ■

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SAVAGE LOVE

# FOOT IN THE DOOR

Plus a pair of assholes.

By Dan Savage

*I'm an actor in New York City. A lot of people think actors are whores, but last week I almost became one. I responded to a casting call for a film project called Sniff. The ad—on Playbill's website—called for two male actors to film a short scene. The pay was $100 for a day's work. I was emailed the scene to study. It starts with two male roommates chatting on a couch. The bigger, more muscular roommate confronts the smaller, scrawnier roommate about his obsession with socks. Two pages later, the smaller roommate is being ordered to sniff, lick, and caress the larger roommate's feet. The scene ends with the smaller roommate being forced to hold the bigger roommate's big toes in the corners of his mouth while smiling for the camera. Write a screenplay and hire actors—is this something foot fetishists do to make low-budget softcore porn? I'm not a hater of fetishists, but it is a little strange to see something like this in a casting ad.*

*Freaked-Out Oblivious Thespian*

"Yes, I am a foot fetishist," said Anthony Fusco, the writer and director of *Sniff* and the person for whom you auditioned. "I'm also a theater person." I reached Fusco the same way you did, through the contact info in the audition notice on Playbill. It turns out that *Sniff* is one scene in *Big Naked Feet*, a five-scene, one-act comedy that Fusco wrote, directed, and produced at a small venue in New York in 2008. "We got a good response," Fusco told me. "We had full houses; people walked away smiling." *Big Naked Feet* isn't Fusco's only play. Another of his plays—*Crossing Verrazano*—was produced as part of the Strawberry One-Act Festival in 2011.

I told Fusco that his six-page script for *Sniff* read like fetish porn ("Good dog, Paul, now take a step back and just stare at the beauty of my manly feet!") and that his audition notice had my 'bullshit detectors going off.' It would be a lot cheaper for a foot fetishist to pay two actors to bring his fantasies to life than, say, two male escorts. But Fusco insisted the video is intended as promo material for a planned remount of *Big Naked Feet*, not foot-fetish fap material.

But, come on: one hot guy going to town on another hot guy's feet? Wouldn't Fusco beat off to that? Wouldn't any foot fetishist? "I'm so used to this stuff," he said. "It's nothing new to me. I'm not going to say it can't be exciting or a turn-on. So it depends on how the final product turns out, I guess, and how it looks."

And... scene.

*My boyfriend is HIV positive and I am not. We haven't been intimate yet because he's not ready. He blames his HIV for everything. I know HIV is very serious, but I have some questions. I can't ask anyone I know without spilling his secret. If he misses taking his meds by ten minutes, will it seriously affect his health? He has forced me to leave movies early, refused to go to work functions with me, and even missed my birthday because we would miss his 10 p.m. med schedule. Anything that goes bad in our relationship, he blames it on the fact that he is positive and I am not. I feel like he manipulates me with his illness.*

*Positively Flustered*

"My answer to PF's question—will his boyfriend's health be affected if he takes his meds ten minutes late—is a resounding no," said Peter Shalit, a doctor, author, and public speaker who has been treating HIV patients for 25 years. "Modern HIV meds have a lot of flexibility around when they are taken. His boyfriend can also carry the meds in his pocket if he's so OCD that he has to take them at the same exact minute every day."

Dr. Shalit doesn't think HIV is the problem here. "His boyfriend needs to stop blaming everything on his HIV, deal with it, and get on with his life," he said. "My advice to patients taking meds for HIV: The daily act of taking your meds should have as much impact in your life as the daily act of brushing your teeth. How would it sound if someone said, 'I can't come to your birthday party because I need to brush my teeth'? It sounds like he is using his HIV as a weapon."

Dr. Shalit and I both wonder why you put up with this guy. "He doesn't sound very pleasant to be around," said Dr. Shalit, and I agree. End this relationship—not because your boyfriend is poz, but because he's an asshole.

*I met a boy on an online sports forum and I've fallen for him. And from what I can tell, he's fallen for me. The problem is that early in our relationship, he expressed certain attitudes about race that caused me to not be 100 percent honest with him. It turns out that he dislikes men of color and feels they are responsible for many of the problems in this world. Upon discovering this, I claimed to be white and even went so far as to use Photoshop to make myself appear white in the pics I sent him. I'm not black, but I am not white. And now that our relationship has come to the point where a meeting is planned, I am absolutely distraught. He is always so kind and loving, but when he makes comments about "ashy knees" and "big ethnic noses," I cry inside. We've been together for a while and I know he loves me, but I fear that he might not see past my skin color. He's young and Canadian, and I believe that he can overcome this. How do I go about confessing? Do I just show up to meet him at LAX, smile, and hope for the best?*

*Lost And Worried*

First off, LAW, you're not in a relationship. You've never met this person—excuse me, you've never met this racist piece of shit—and while two people can get to know each other via email, two people who've never actually met are not "together." You were alone in your room with your laptop the whole time, LAW, lying to a racist piece of shit and deluding and undervaluing yourself.

My advice: Call off the meeting and send the racist piece of shit your actual, un-retouched pics, along with an email that begins with something like "I don't know what I was thinking getting involved with you," and ends with something like "Now go fuck yourself, you racist piece of shit." Trust me, you'll feel better about this "relationship" if you dump the racist piece of shit before he has a chance to dump you.

Find the Savage Lovecast (my weekly podcast) every Tuesday at TheStranger.com/savage.
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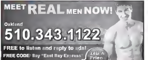
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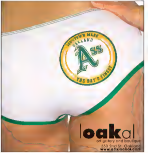

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